Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-044
Tuesday
6 March 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-044 *6 March 1990*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Gulf Cooperation Council Holds 34th Meeting 1
Agenda for Meeting *[KUNA]* 1
Omani Minister Addresses Council *[Riyadh Radio]* 1
Second Session Ends *[SPA]* 1
Third Session Concludes *[SPA]* 1
Council Issues Statement *[Riyadh Radio]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

'Abbas Denies Statement Issued on Israeli Talks *[Tunis Radio]* 3
'Arafat Advised Against Ending U.S. Dialogue *[London AL-MAJALLAH 6 Mar]* 3
PLO's Al-Najjab on Negotiations for Peace Talks *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 1 Mar]* 3
Committee Urges Release of 'Struggler' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

'Arafat Visits Algiers, Talks With Bendjedid 5
Discusses Mideast Events *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Condemns Soviet Jewish Emigration *[Algiers TV]* 5
Bendjedid Praises Relations With Morocco *[MAP]* 5
More on FLN Central Committee Emergency Session 5
Party Reinforcement Stressed *[APS]* 5
Prime Minister Addresses Congress *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Session Concludes 4 Mar *[APS]* 6

Egypt

Muslim 'Extremists' Burn Christian Property *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 4 Mar]* 6
U.S. Criticism of Attitude on Emigration Rebutted *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 4 Mar]* 7
Mubarak Discusses Economy, Jewish Immigration *[Cairo Radio]* 8
Syria Seeks Decreased Egyptian Role in Lebanon *[AL-WAFD 2 Mar]* 8
Papers on Israeli Moves, 'Substitute Homeland' *[MENA]* 9
Ghali Receives Mauritanian President's Envoy *[MENA]* 9
Deputy Interviewed on Assembly Knife Incident *[London AL-MAJALLAH 6 Mar]* 9
'Secret Circular' Reveals Higher Medicine Prices *[AL-WAFD 28 Feb]* 10

Libya

Sudan's Al-Bashir Attends People's Congress 10
Makes Arrival Statement *[Tripoli International]* 10
Announces Joint Unity Project *[Tripoli TV]* 10
Honored at Al-Qadhdhafi Banquet *[JANA]* 11
Further on Al-Bashir Speech *[JANA]* 11
Sends Message of Thanks *[JANA]* 12
Gives Horse to Al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 12

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Visiting Delegations 12
Meets Egyptian Delegation *[JANA]* 12
Receives Jordanian Official *[JANA]* 12
Cooperation Agreement With Romania Signed 1 Mar *[Tripoli Radio]* 13

Morocco

King Hassan Celebrates Throne Day Anniversary 13
Grants Pardons *[Rabat Radio]* 13
Delivers Speech *[Rabat TV]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

KUNA Criticizes U.S. Support for Israel 15

PDRY

Iraqi Chief of Staff Meets With Defense Official *[Aden Radio]* 16

Saudi Arabia

Lebanon's Al-Hirawi Meets With Foreign Minister *[SPA]* 16
Press Statement on Visit Issued *[SPA]* 16
Concludes Visit, Departs 5 Mar *[VOL]* 17

Yemen Arab Republic

PRC's Qian Qichen Meets Prime Minister *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
Meets With President, Departs *[Sanaa Radio]* 17

IRAQ

'Giant Oil Pipeline' Under Construction *[INA]* 18
Message to UN Calls For Direct Talks With Iran *[INA]* 18
Pakistani Minister Concludes Visit, Departs *[INA]* 18

ISRAEL

Officials Protests Egyptian Envoy's Moves *[KUNA]* 19
Arens: 'Binding Agreement' Needed With Labor *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 19
Shamir: Unity Needed To Solve Election Issue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Arens Says No Ultimatum, Deadline From U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Alignment, Likud Agree on Portfolio Distribution *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 20
Rabin, Peres Offices Give Deadline on Decision *[Jerusalem TV]* 20
Peres: Labor Committed to 'United Jerusalem' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Likud Resolution on 'Continuing' Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Shamir Speaks on Settlement in Territories *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE]* 21
Likud Ministers Demands Unity Over Jerusalem, PLO *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Olmert on Settling Immigrants in Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Peres: Alignment Stance on Jerusalem 'Unequivocal' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Palestinian Reaction to Likud Demands Reviewed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Knesset Reactions to Likud Resolution Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Alignment 'Can Continue' in Coalition With Likud *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Likud Decision Prompts No-Confidence Motion *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
PLO Said Agreeable to 'Most Recent' Proposals *[DAVAR 6 Mar]* 25
Shamir's Office: U.S. 'Unaware of Reality' *[MA'ARIV 6 Mar]* 25
Shamir Emphasizes Unity, Rejects Ultimatum *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Immigration Minister: 100,000 Expected in 1990 *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
EC Aid to Territories Will Top $6 Million *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25

JORDAN

Indian Parliamentarian Continues Visit 26
Discusses Peace With Badran *[Amman Radio]* 26
Received by Prince Hasan *[Amman Radio]* 26
Meets With Tahir al-Masri *[PETRA-JNA]* 26
Indian Envoy Assesses Talks *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Mar]* 26
King Husayn Arrives in Paris for Talks *[cross-reference]* 27

LEBANON

Talks Held on Forming Authority in Eastern Area *[Voice of National Resistance]* 28
Vatican Warns of Syrian Moves if Clashes Continue *[Beirut Radio]* 28
Nasirite Groups Attack Israeli Positions in South *[VOM]* 28
Birri Comments on Eastern Area Fighting, Hizballah *[Beirut Radio]* 28
Al-Hirawi Views E. Beirut Situation, Visits *[VOM]* 28
Algeria's Bendjedid Sends Message to Al-Hirawi *[Beirut Radio]* 29

SYRIA

National Progressive Front Said To Expand *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 2 Mar]* 30
New 'Transformation Movement' Examined *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 1 Mar]* 30
Qaddah on 'Defense Capabilities', Arab Solidarity *[Damascus Radio]* 31
TISHRIN Praises Lebanese President's Arab Tour *[Damascus Radio]* 31
Special Courts for Civil Servants Established *[SANA]* 32

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Defense Minister Tanay Leads Coup Attempt 33
Wanted 'Dead or Alive' *[AFP]* 33
High Command Statement *[Kabul Radio]* 33
Supreme Council: Coup 'Crushed' *[Kabul Radio]* 34
Conspirators Urged To Surrender *[Kabul Radio]* 34
Armed Forces HQ Says Coup 'Crushed' *[Kabul Radio]* 34
Watanjar Seeks Tanay's Capture *[Kabul Radio]* 34
Najibullah Issues Decree on New Ministers *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Provincial Councils Assure Loyalty, Control *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Kabul Garrison Announces Curfew Until 7 Mar *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Hekmatyar Supports Coup Against 'Atheist Regime' *[AFP]* 35
Najibullah Receives Representatives, Elders 6 Mar 35
Salang District *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Baghlan Province *[Kabul Radio]* 36

India

Troops in Kashmir Fire To Clear Protestors *[AFP]* 36
Troops Fire During 5 Mar Rally *[AFP]* 37
3 Injured in Cross Fire *[Delhi Radio]* 37
'Top-Level' Team Reviews Kashmir Situation *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Briefs Federal Cabinet Committee *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Election Results Updated; Repoll in Meham *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Singh on 'Poll Violence' *[Delhi Radio]* 38
BJP-Janata Dal Rajasthan Government Sworn In *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Non-Congress-I Governments in 2 More States *[Delhi Radio]* 39
BJP Forms Government in Madhya Pradesh *[Delhi Radio]* 39

Iran

Hostages' Release Without Preconditions Urged *[IRNA]* 39
Hashemi's Syria Visit Not Linked to Hostages *[IRNA]* 40
UNCHR Officials Meet Kya-Nuri in Evin Prison *[Radio of the Iranian Toilers]* 40
Amnesty International 'Silent' on UN Report *[IRNA]* 41
UN Secretary General's Proposed Agenda Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 41
KEYHAN Examines 'Fragile Truce' With Iraq *[IRNA]* 42
Smugglers, Foreign Mercenaries' Convoy 'Smashed' *[Tehran Radio]* 42
West's Reaction to Islam's 'Awakening' Viewed *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 21 Feb]* 43
Majles Deputy Says Internal 'Discord' Aids Iraq *[Tehran Radio]* 43
*Azari-Qomi Examines Khamene'i's Leadership *[London KEYHAN 1 Mar]* 44
Mohsen Rafiqdust Praises Role of Guards *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Air Force Commander Praises Disabled Veterans *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Tehran Urges Good Economic Relations With USSR *[Tehran International]* 44
USSR Waterways To Allow Iranian Vessels *[Tehran TV]* 45
Iranian-Soviet Economic Commission Talks Continue 45
Ministers on 'Speeding Up' Projects *[IRNA]* 45
USSR Ready To Provide Resources *[Tehran Radio]* 45
KEYHAN Comments on Baku, Dushanbe Incidents *[24 Feb]* 45
Editorial Comments on Settlement of Soviet Jews *[TEHRAN TIMES 24 Feb]* 46
Paper Urges Kuwait To Release Shiite Prisoners *[IRNA]* 47
Involvement in Pakistan Politician's Murder Denied *[IRNA]* 47
Editorial Terms Indian-Pakistani Dispute 'Tragic' *[TEHRAN TIMES 26 Feb]* 47
Lebanon's Al-Husayni Warns of 'Israeli Plot' *[TEHRAN TIMES 24 Feb]* 48
Southern Gulf States Can Play 'Positive Role' *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Official Says Saudi Arabia Obstructs Pilgrimage *[IRNA]* 49
Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Spain *[cross-reference]* 49
Editorial on Implementation of Five-Year Plan *[RESALAT 21 Feb]* 49
PTT Minister Discusses Projects *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Central Satellite Station Inaugurated 12 Feb *[ETTELA'AT 13 Feb]* 50
*Report on Proceedings of 28 Jan Majles Session *[RESALAT 29 Jan]* 51

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives in Kathmandu *[AFP]* 56
Government Accused of Torturing Detainees *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Writers, Artists Support Multiparty Movement *[AFP]* 56

Bhutan

Pakistani Foreign Minister To Meet With King *[Islamabad Radio]* 57

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan Condemns 'Brutal Force' in Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Joint Statement on Relations With USSR Issued *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
President Meets Afghan Interim Government Leader *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Australian Naval Chief Calls On President *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Teachers Boycott To Protest Denationalization *[AFP]* 58

Inter-Arab Affairs

Gulf Cooperation Council Holds 34th Meeting

Agenda for Meeting

LD0403102990 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0746 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 4 Mar (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah today left Kuwait for Riyadh to participate in the 34th meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ministerial council. [passage omitted]

The council will begin its 34th meeting this evening to discuss the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf region and the Middle East, in addition to the efforts being made for a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question. The participants will also discuss the dangers of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and the development of the situation in Lebanon, as well as the issues listed on the agenda of the first ministerial meeting between GCC and EEC member states scheduled for 17 March.

Omani Minister Addresses Council

LD0403132390 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Their highnesses and excellencies, the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member-states began the 34th session of the ministerial council under the chairmanship of His Excellency Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Sultanate of Oman. The Omani minister gave a speech. [passage omitted]

On the current situation in the Middle East, he said that the Iraqi-Iran negotiations are still marking time despite the efforts being made by the UN secretary general and the desire expressed by both sides to arrive at a permanent peace. Within the framework of the Arab issue, he added, the Jews' emigration to Israel in unaccustomed numbers from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe has caused a shock in the Arab world, not only because of the complications this emigration will place in the path of the stumbling efforts in search of peace, but also because of the real danger this emigration poses for pan-Arab security. [passage omitted]

Second Session Ends

LD0403220990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2113 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Mar (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies, the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member-states have this evening concluded their second meeting, which lasted three hours, of the 34th session of the Ministerial Council, at the headquarters of the GCC in Riyadh.

Their highneses and excellencies will resume their meetings tomorrow, Monday morning.

Third Session Concludes

LD0503194490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1452 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Riyadh 5 Mar (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies, the foreign ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member-countries this afternoon ended their third working session within the meetings of the ministerial council's 34th session, which began yesterday (4 March) at the headquarters of the GCC Secretariat General in Riyadh. It is expected that their highnesses and excellencies will hold their final session this evening.

Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah made a statement after the meeting in which he said that the meeting's results had been satisfactory, and that debate on a number of issues, including dialogue with the EC, had been completed. A fundamental perception of the Gulf position regarding the dialogue had been reached. He added that organizing the next meeting for a dialogue with the EC, and the issues that would be discussed at the forthcoming Muscat meeting had been debated.

On the question of achieving peace between Iran and Iraq, he said that on the basis of the leaders' instructions at the Muscat summit, the GCC member-countries would remain in contact with Iran and Iraq to help to bring their views closer, and to find basis for building trust between the two countries in order to help the UN secretary general to bring about direct talks between the two countries and the signing of a peace agreement between Iran and Iraq.

In reply to a question on the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs said that the GCC member-countries would do their utmost within the framework of Arab efforts to confront this exodus. Regarding the situation in Lebanon, his excellency said that the GCC member-countries supported the efforts of the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis, and supported the al-Ta'if accord reached by Lebanese deputies. He expressed the hope that the committee would be able to end the tragic situation in Lebanon.

He said the next meeting between the GCC foreign ministers and EC ministers would primarily discuss economic and political issues. He pointed out there had been some development in the European position regarding Arab issues.

His excellency pointed out that Sayf Ibn-Hashim al-Maskari has been reappointed assistant secretary for political affairs of the GCC.

Council Issues Statement

LD0603031690 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Statement by 'Abdallah Bisharah, secetary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and address by Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, in Riyadh on 5 March—both read by announcer]

[Text] Their highnesses and excellencies, the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] foreign ministers concluded this evening the meetings of the 34th session of the ministerial council at the premises of the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh. His excellency the secretary general of the GCC, 'Abdallah Bisharah, read the following news statement:

The ministerial council held its 34th session betwen 7 and 8 Sha'ban 1410, corresponding to 4 and 5 March 1990, at the premises of the General Secretariat in Riyadh, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in Oman and chairman of the current session, in the presence of all of its members.

Inspired by the principles embodied by the Muscat declaration, guided by its significance, and stressing attachment to it, the Council examined the situation in the region, the current Arab situation, and developments in the international arena. It also discussed the march of the Council in light of the 10th session in Muscat, and the development of cooperation within the framework of implementation of the economic agreement, and also the phases of dialogue with countries and economic groups.

His excellency the chairman of the session, Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi, presented a report to the Council on his visit to Baghdad and Tehran. In this context, the Council stressed commitment to the policy designed by their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC countries in connection with supporting the efforts of the UN secretary general, and endeavoring with the members of the Security Council, especially the permanent members, to contribute to developing stands in order to fully implement Resolution 598. The Council expressed satisfaction with the two sides' commitment to achieving a durable peace between them.

The Council also reviewed the current situation in the Arab world, especially the Palestinian issue and its developments, and the issue of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe to the Palestinian occupied territories. The Council condemns the policy of the Zionist enemy in bringing immigrants and settling them in the Palestinian Arab occupied territories, and driving the Palestinian people away from their land and soil.

The Council appeals to the Soviet Union and the East European countries to cooperate with the Arab countries in order to take measures which will prevent the Jews from settling in the Arab occupied territories. It appeals to the international community, the United States in particular, to take a decisive stand against the Israeli policy, which defies the international will, violates the 1949 Geneva agreement, and contradicts international law and the UN resolutions and charter.

As to the uprising in the Arab occupied territories, the Council reviewed the continuation by the Arab people in Palestine of the courageous uprising, reminded of the resolutions of the Arab emergency summit meeting in Casablanca on support for the uprising and struggle of the Palestinian people, their right to self-determination and establishment of an independent state on their own land under the leadership of the PLO.

While the Council hails the courageous uprising, and admires the sacrifices undergone by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, it stresses the GCC countries' support for the uprising until it becomes a reality and achieves its aims. The Council also appeals to the international community to back the uprising, expose Israeli ways of tyranny and terrorism, condemn the repressive measures practiced by the Zionist enemy against the sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and put an end to oppressive actions such as displacements and the destruction of homes, which contradicts the principles of human rights and opposes the simplest international conventions and charters.

The Council also reviewed the situation in Lebanon, and was reminded of the statement issued by the Muscat summit, in which the higher council supports legitimacy in Lebanon and backs the al-Ta'if agreement and the efforts aimed at achieving the unity of Lebanon and preserving its independence and sovereignty. It stressed the importance of the continuation of efforts by the Council in supporting the endeavors of the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee to achieve these aims.

The Council stressed the importance of consolidating the Lebanese legitimacy, cooperating with it, and endeavoring within the Arab and international frameworks to enable Lebanon to stand on its feet by contributing to programs of reconstruction.

The Council appeals to all Lebanese parties to show self-control, and to treat problems in this critical period with wisdom and reflection in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement, and within the framework of legitimacy as a fundamental rule to solve standing problems and overcome current obstacles in order to secure the unity of Lebanon, its land and people, and to consecrate its freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

The Council also appeals to the international community to continue its support for the al-Ta'if agreement, the efforts of the Arab Tripartite Committee, and Lebanese legitimacy.

Within the framework of implementing the economic agreement and the march of cooperation between the GCC countries, the Council examined the executive steps of the resolutions of the higher council, in order to

consolidate cooperation, entrench mutual interests, and reach the aspired economic integration. The Council reviewed, in this context, the minutes of the ministerial committees and adopted them.

While the Council welcomes the joint meeting with the EEC in Muscat on 17 March 1990, it stresses that all necessary measures for the success of this meeting should be taken.

The Council expresses its condemnation of the terrorist actions to which three Saudi diplomats were exposed in Bangkok, and calls on the Thai Government to arrest and punish these terrorist elements and not to show any leniency toward them so that mutual trust can be restored to diplomatic relations. The Council also expresses the most sincere condolences to the families of the martyrs.

Then the Council decided, according to Article 12 of its basic charter, to renew the appointment of the assistant secretary general for political affairs, His Excellency Sayf Bin-Hashil al-Maskari, for a further three years as from 1 April 1990.

Issued in Riyadh 8 Sha'ban 1410, equivalent to 5 March 1990

Mr. Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs and chairman of the current session, then delivered the following address:

Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies and brothers. With God's guidance we come to the end of our meetings in this 34th session. We were able to study all the subjects and issues on the agenda of this session in a spirit of cooperation, and within the framework of the directives of their majesties and highnesses at the 10th summit in Muscat.

This way we have laid the foundations for implementation of our leaders' directives, which will achieve for our peoples and countries the sought aims and which make our role in the Arab context one which serves the Arab interest, leads to uniting the Arab ranks, and secures joint Arab action.

Here I hope you will allow me to address on your behalf thanks to the government of the servant of the two holy places for the facilities and hospitality with which we are received every time we meet at this beautiful capital, Riyadh, which leads to the success of our meetings. May God guide us all. Peace be upon you.

After that, Mr. Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah announced the conclusion of the 34th session.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abbas Denies Statement Issued on Israeli Talks

LD0603014490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, denied that any statement has been issued by the Palestinian leadership about the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

In a statement published by WAFA, the Palestinian official said the PLO has not received any information about the latest developments of this issue. He pointed out that the PLO will meet as soon as it obtains such information to adopt a resolution that will be announced at the appropriate time.

WAFA pointed out that the media has published some statements by a Palestinian source about the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

'Arafat Advised Against Ending U.S. Dialogue

PM0103160990 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 6 Mar 90 p 10

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Advised To Continue U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned from informed Palestinian sources in Cairo that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has been advised by certain Arab and European circles against discontinuation of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in Tunisia between the U.S. ambassador there and a Palestinian representative.

The circles told the Palestinian leader that the current pause in the dialogue is a result of heavy pressure Israel has been putting on the U.S. Administration and President Bush for quite some time to terminate the dialogue so that the PLO would withdraw its offered acceptance of James Baker's plan, and that some congressional leaders have urged more restrictions on U.S. contacts with the PLO.

According to the same sources, certain Palestinian leaders have conveyed to 'Arafat their dissatisfaction with the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, particularly as some U.S. Administration officials are trying to empty the dialogue of any substance.

PLO's Al-Najjab on Negotiations for Peace Talks

JN0303124090 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 1 Mar 90 p 31

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—A ranking Palestinian official has expressed his conviction that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan is deadlocked, and that pressure on the PLO to turn the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue into a

mere technical meeting to discuss the holding of elections is useless. He revealed that the USSR is moving toward Europe to promote the idea of an international conference.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab added that there is no longer any excuse to waste time. He said the PLO considers the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to be part of the preparations to convene the international conference, and that the Palestinian leadership has defined the foundations and objectives of this dialogue on many occasions and in official documents.

Al-Najjab called for a focus on the Palestinian peace initiative and urged that efforts by the PLO, Arab countries, and other countries championing the Palestinian people's rights continue. He said that new prospects exist for convening the international conference.

The PLO Executive Committee member disclosed that the Palestinian delegation that visited Moscow recently and of which he was a member sensed additional interest by the Kremlin in the importance of coordination with Western European countries. Within this context, the chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries at the Soviet Foreign Ministry visited Paris, and this visit will be followed by similar ones to other European capitals.

The Palestinian official noted that in its last statement, the PLO Executive Committee called on Western European countries to present an initiative based on the Madrid Declaration to give momentum to the peace process in the Middle East.

Al-Najjab expressed his opinion that the issue of settling the emigres from the USSR in occupied Palestinian territory is another motive for discussing the peace process. He noted that the negative stand adopted by the U.S. Administration on the danger posed by the settlements and the U.S. encouragement to the Tel Aviv government mirror White House intentions. He called on Arab countries to use the Security Council rostrum to expose this stand and the objectives of the U.S. practices.

Asked about plans for a settlement disclosed by U.S. and Israeli media recently with regard to the PLO's acceptance of a Palestinian delegation comprising a deportee who has not carried out "terrorist" acts, and a citizen from East Jerusalem who has another address, and that Egypt will announce the delegation, the PLO official described this as being null and void. He added that this is intended to camouflage the imminent danger posed by the Jewish settlements.

Al-Najjab affirmed that the important thing to the PLO is who forms the delegation and who announces it. He recalled the Executive Committee statement which explained the Palestinian stand in this respect and underscores the PLO's commitment to being the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Asked about what has been reiterated concerning pressures on the Palestinian leadership and whether the pressures come from Arab sides, Al-Najjab said: Any slackening in Arab support for the Palestinian position and the peace initiative declared by the Palestine National Council in the 19th Session, or any Arab hesitation in implementing the Casablanca summit resolutions are considered as pressures by Arab parties.

Al-Najjab called for expediting the Palestinian political moves on the Arab and international levels. At the same time, he added, the PLO will continue its efforts to speed the formation of an Arab popular support front made up of representatives of Arab national forces and parties, because popular Arab action represents a momentum to the Palestinian peace initiative in confronting the pressures and schemes aimed at finding what he described as a new version of the Camp David accords.

Committee Urges Release of 'Struggler'

JN0503210090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The committee of supporters of Colonel Jabr 'Ammar in Tripoli [country not specified] has issued a statement denouncing Mr. Yasir 'Arafat's personal decision to hold struggler Col. Jabr 'Ammar in custody. The statement called for his immediate release and warned of the consequences of doing him any harm, as he is a national and loyal cadre and leader of our people who reject the capitulationist solutions that are destroying the national cause. The statement paid tribute to the revolutionary character of struggler Jabr 'Ammar and the militant and prominent role he has performed and is performing together with his fellow strugglers, to step up armed struggle and the revolutionary intifadah in Palestine. [passage omitted]

Algeria

'Arafat Visits Algiers, Talks With Bendjedid

Discusses Mideast Events

LD0403175190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, met this afternoon with his brother President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic of Algeria. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and the continuation of the blessed intifadah in the occupied homeland. The meeting also considered the issue of Jewish emigration to Palestine, and the dangers it represents for the peace process in the Middle East region. In addition, they examined new developments in the Arab and international scenes. [passage omitted]

Condemns Soviet Jewish Emigration

LD0403205490 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Palestinian question was discussed by President Chadli Bendjedid and Mr. Yasir 'Arafat. Related issues and their latest developments were examined during the meeting between the two men today at the presidency building. [passage omitted]

Following this meeting Yasir 'Arafat talked about the dimension of the visit, the gist of the discussion, and the horizons of the PLO's diplomatic moves. Let us listen to him:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] [passage omitted] We tackled the importance of the forthcoming proceedings of the Arab foreign ministers, who will hold an important meeting within the next 10 days within the framework of their regular session in Tunis. The agenda will include two important issues: first, more support for the blessed intifadah of our people; and second, a more critical issue, that of the Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and the socialist countries—or the Eastern countries now, not the socialist countries—to Palestine, and the dangers posed by this emigration not only for the Palestinian people. Three and a half million Jews occupy Palestine now. The aim behind this emigration is to prepare for the operations of Israeli expansion—called Greater Israel, from the Nile to the Euphrates. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Bendjedid Praises Relations With Morocco

LD0103220590 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Rabat, Mar. 1 (MAP)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid expressed "deep satisfaction at the encouraging level reached" by Moroccan-Algerian relations "in all areas".

In a message of congratulations to King Hassan II on the occasion of the throne day, commemorating this year the 29th anniversary of the sovereign's enthronement, President Bendjedid voiced "firm determination to endeavour to promote, consolidate, and diversify these relations to meet the aspirations of our two peoples and serve the supreme interests of the two countries in the context of cooperation, peace and anything that is likely to contribute to the materialization of the noble objective we are resolutely and sincerely seeking for the edification of the Arab Maghreb Union".

President Bendjedid wished the sovereign wellbeing and health and the Moroccan people further progress and prosperity.

More on FLN Central Committee Emergency Session

Party Reinforcement Stressed

LD0403150390 Algiers APS in English 1115 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Algiers, 4 Mar (APS)—The reinforcement of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Party which must remain the first political force of the country is the main concern expressed in the general debate of the extraordinary session of the FLN Party Central Committee whose work continues here.

In the prospects of the forthcoming elections, the participants spoke for the elaboration of a coherent and topical action program likely to enable the FLN Party to efficiently face up the challenges which characterize the present phase. It is necesary to go beyond all conflict, whatever be their nature, and to oneself increase the audience of the party and its credibility. Such was the suggestion made by most of the participants.

One of the particpants said that the FLN, for evident historical reasons, cannot be compared to other political parties. It must continue to be a determining force through more cohesion, clear objectives and programs and by taking into account the political, social and economic reality of the country.

Prime Minister Addresses Congress

LD0503000190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] The open session of the proceedings of the 4th and last day of the extraordinary meeting of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Central Committee, convened at the Palais des Nations in Club des Pins, was adjourned this evening. A committee was set up to draft the recommendations made by the three committees emanating from this session. It will remain open until the committees have concluded their work. The Central Committee will then reconvene.

The Central Committee proceedings resumed in a closed session. Moreover, Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche, the head of government, presented to the members of the FLN

Central Committee lengthy analyses, clarifications, and replies to numerous questions and queries of the participants in the past four days of discussions on the political and economic reforms, indebtedness and the changes which the country is going through. Here are excerpts from that analytical speech:

[Begin Hamroucha recording] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Prayers and peace be on the most honorable of messengers.

Brother secretary general, brother members of this session's bureau, brothers and sisters. I would like to make a few observations which were prompted by some queries and the general debate. I will try to talk with my mind, but should I fail I will resort to the heart. From the past day, discussions and observations, it appears as if the situation which we have today—the economic and social situation—and the disruptions within the national economy and the commercial, banking, and health sectors were generated by the reforms, resulted from these reforms. But we know that these reforms have not even been put into effect yet despite, and I repeat, despite the fact that these reforms were introduced in 1987, were ratified by the Council of Ministers in 1987, and were put before the National People's Assembly and passed as eight laws. These laws should have already come into force and these laws were to be followed by other laws to form a whole within the overall framework of the reforms.

The reforms were introduced to improve the current situation about which we are all complaining. The current situation, as I said, was not generated by these reforms. These reforms and these files [as heard] were never, and I testify before God and before the brothers, the product of a group of five, 10, 20, 30, 100, 200, or 300 people. But they are the product of all the cadres in charge of the economic sector. When the balance-sheet was drawn up a debate, a dialogue, a study, and seminars were held with the participation of over 3,000 cadres from the national enterprises.

With regard to indebtness, it is necessary to be aware of the data because we have talked too much about indebteness, its background, the management of indebtedness and its rescheduling. Our revenues for 1990 are estimated at 9 to 10 billion [currency not specified]. The financial needs to manage the economy and feed the people are estimated at 8 to 9 billion. The repayment of the debt, or the amount we are obliged to pay in 1990, is 7 billion. We must remind you of another fact, and that is we are a country which has an economy that cannot be inward-looking because all the factories, raw materials, and semi manufactured goods, in addition to food and medicine, must be imported and with hard currency only. Such is the situation, although solutions have existed and have been put forward since 1987. There was at least a proposed strategy which we are today trying to implement.

First, we said to the outside world and to all the creditors that we refuse to let Algeria be considered a state with a weak economy incapable of paying its debts. Second, we refuse to reschedule the debt—we told the creditor states that we refuse to let Algeria be considered a country incapable of paying its debts for it is a country with a Gross Domestic Product of $64 billion and therefore it cannot be considered as a defaulting nation. [end recording]

Session Concludes 4 Mar

LD0503123790 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Algiers, 5 Mar (APS)—The works of the extraordinary session of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Party ended yesterday after four days of debates instead of the three days the debate was due to last initially.

The participants in the plenary session spoke about the situation in the country, the political, economic and social reforms and on the place and the role of the FLN in the new political landscape since the new constitution adopted on February 23, 1989.

The reinforcements of the FLN Party, "which must remain the first political force of the country" is the main concern which appeared in the general debate in the prospect of the forthcoming elections. The participants also asked for the elaboration of a coherent and topical action program likely to enable the FLN to efficiently face up [to] the present challenges.

A number of participants said it was necessary to go beyond all sorts of conflicts and be devoted to increase the audience of the party and its credibility [as received]. As for some, a defeat of the FLN means a sort of "recolonization" of the country.

Egypt

Muslim 'Extremists' Burn Christian Property

JN0503180290 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Mar 90 p 7

[Report by Muhammad Munazi']

[Excerpts] Abu Qurqas—A large number of extremists set fire to several places in the city of Abu Qurqas in al-Minya, after Friday prayers the day before yesterday. Two churches, three homes, six pharmacies, nine cars, and a hospital were set ablaze, but there were no casualties. More than 300 extremists had emerged from three mosques chanting religious slogans in a noisy demonstration.

Alerted by the emergency police, Major General Mahir Hasan, al-Minya security chief, immediately hurried to the scene. Upon being informed, Interior Minister, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, ordered that Central Security forces and fire services promptly go to the area to bring the situation under control and to keep him

informed of developments. Major General Hilmi al-Faqi, chief of investigation at the Interior Ministry, also rushed to the scene. It transpired that the extremists had hurled firebombs at churches and homes setting them ablaze. The city was gripped with panic.

The fire brigade managed to bring the fires under control and to extinguish them within two hours. Meanwhile, security forces succeeded in surrounding and containing the extremists who had fanned out across the city. A large number of the extremists were apprehended.

According to police investigations, there was a rumor circulating in the city over a month ago that a Christian youth—Ashraf As'ad Habib—had seduced a 16-year-old Muslim girl enrolled in the first class of a teacher training college, lured her to an apartment where he proceeded to drug her and take indecent video and still pictures of her. He subsequently distributed them to other young men. Extremists decided to take revenge and planned retaliation for the period after Friday prayers when a number of them headed for the candy factory owned by Habib's father, which is housed in the building where he lives and which he owns. They hurled a number of firebombs, doused it with kerosene, and set it on fire, gutting it completely. The blaze spread to a nearby grain silo and to his father's car, destroying both. The extremists went on to throw firebombs at a neighboring four-story house, gutting two floors and destroying their contents. Then they roamed the streets setting on fire everything in their path.

In the space of a half hour, the extremists burned two churches, nine cars, six pharmacies, three homes, and a private hospital.

The extremists, investigations revealed, simultaneously emerged from three mosques—the majority of over three hundred of them coming out of the al-Haqq Mosque.

According to a security source of the Bani Suwayf Security Directorate, investigations have shown the rumors circulating in the city to be just that—rumors. It turned out, according to investigations, that the factory owner's son had a disagreement with one of the extremists over a 300-pound debt owed to him by the latter.

Al-Minya investigation and Central Security forces closed off the city and cornered the suspects, rounding up 100 extremists on charges of arson, assembly, destruction of public and private property, and resisting the authorities.

Eyewitnesses told AL-JUMHURIYAH that they had heard the rumor but could neither substantiate nor deny it. They were taken aback by the extremists roaming the streets and setting fire to everything they encountered. [passage omitted]

The prosecution ordered 12 suspects to be taken into custody on charges of assembly, arson, and incitement to sectarian sedition. Twenty-five others were released on bail, and arrest orders were issued to catch suspects still on the run.

U.S. Criticism of Attitude on Emigration Rebutted

JN0503202090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Mar 90 p 1

["News Analysis" by chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari: "The Incomplete Right and America's Retreat!"]

[Text] Yesterday, the U.S. State Department spokeswoman criticized Egypt's attitude toward Soviet Jewish emigration to "Palestine" and noted that it is wrong for Egypt to attempt to rally world opinion against this emigration.

In fact, although the spokeswoman's comment was part of the Israeli pressure on the U.S. Administration, this pressure does not justify this outright fallacy.

The U.S. State Department was trying to clothe this strange position with claims about human rights and the right of movement, entry, and immigration—although it knew, or should know, that human rights are indivisible and that the quintessence of human rights, in terms of content and logic, is based on nondiscrimination—because God has created people equal. There should be no discrimination on the basis of color, language, religion, or sex. Human rights are for all human beings—Israelis, Palestinians, Arabs, and Jews—and for America and Egypt; they are not confined to Jews only.

The U.S. Administration has brought pressure on the USSR to allow Jews the freedom to emigrate in implementation of, and compliance with, the human rights' charter as well as the agreements and resolutions of the European Peace and Security Conference in Helsinki in 1975. Why then has it violated these rights by deciding to put constraints on the immigration of Soviet Jews and limit the number of Jewish immigrants to the United States to 50,000?

The U.S. Administration has exercised its right to sovereignty over its territory and its right to safeguard its society against an influx taking place without any order, law, or prior knowledge. It has limited the number of immigrants and closed its borders. Why then is it denying this right to the owners of the land and to the countries that will be harmed? Why is it denying this right to the people under Israeli occupation, whose remaining lands and resources are hardly enough for them? Why is it denying the right of both Jordan and Egypt to object to this emigration out of their concern that this heavy emigration will cause the expulsion of Palestinians and the eruption of fresh disturbances and conflicts over water and the sources of life and livelihood?

Citing its sources in Washington, AFP has said the United States has gone back on the position declared by Baker two days ago when he linked America's financing

of Jewish immigrants in Israel to ending a settlement in the occupied territories. This comes at a time when this position and linkage constitutes the minimum for preserving even the "suspected" U.S. adherence to human rights without discrimination.

One may try hard to find a logical reason for this serious and rapid retreat in the U.S. position, although, very regrettably, we are beginning to get used to it. The reason might be James Baker's desire to pave the way for the tripartite meeting in Washington with both Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens—a meeting Baker wishes to hold before the end of this month. The reason might also be that of setting the stage for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which Baker seeks to hold in Cairo and for which he put forward his first initiative and then the amended one.

However, if the U.S. Administration does not stick to firm and principled positions regarding basic issues and essential differences—including the most important issue of human rights and the fact that the Palestinians and Jews are alike—I think that a state of general frustration will prevail in the region. This frustration and despair may lead to the gravest consequences. I believe that continued retreat will tempt Shamir and his like to maintain their inflexibility and rejection in order to wring more concessions. I think that the credibility of peace and the peaceful approach will crumble. What is required is a position that supports right, fairness, and human rights.

Mubarak Discusses Economy, Jewish Immigration

NC0403195290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has affirmed that it is necessary to confront the economic crisis firmly, scientifically, and with radical planning so that it will not be left as a burden for future generations. He said this today in remarks to scientists and professors of the National Research Center.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif announced that during this meeting President Mubarak explained the implications of the population growth problem. He said the president pointed out that the rate of development cannot continue to match the population growth rate. He said our imports exceed our revenue by about $1.5 million annually and noted a continued gap in the balance of payments will threaten Egypt's future.

The president also referred to the difficult negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank. He noted, however, that there is some progress in these negotiations and Egypt wishes to implement economic reforms that agree with its interests. During the same meeting, the prime minister announced an agreement with the IMF is expected in May or June. [passage omitted]

In his remarks, the president praised the role of the Egyptian Armed Forces, asserting that Egyptian military strength maintains a military balance and defends rights and that it is not intended for aggression. He said Egypt does not accept the establishment of military axes, does not join them, and does not cooperate with one sister state at the expense of another. He declared Egypt's strength gives strength to the entire Arab nation.

Regarding the issue of water in the Nile basin, the president referred to the bonds of trust between Egypt and its friends and neighbors in the Nile Valley. He said there is no problem in this area because these countries have common interests and respect the agreements on using Nile waters.

The president also noted the danger and effects of Jewish immigration to Palestine. He emphasized that Egypt made prompt contacts with the USSR, the United States, and Israel in order to halt the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories. The president emphasized the importance of adopting a stand based on an Arab strategy to deal with Jewish immigration. He also stressed the need for effective action for the good of the Palestinian issue, the pivotal issue for Arabs. He noted that Egypt is doing its utmost for the sake of this cause in order to regain Palestinian rights and to establish a just and comprehensive peace.

Syria Seeks Decreased Egyptian Role in Lebanon

JN0303182290 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Mar 90 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Syria is said to be seeking a diminution of the Egyptian role in Lebanon and a halt to any Egyptian attempt to contain the Lebanese crisis. A diplomatic source in Cairo notes that Butrus Ghali, Egyptian state minister for foreign affairs, will not, after all, be visiting Lebanon on a mediation mission to reconcile the warring factions. Dr. Ghali, adds the source, has sensed a lack of enthusiasm for the visit in Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss. The source emphasizes that Syria has failed to get the Egyptians to change their position on the Lebanese crisis, which calls for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from the country. Setting a date for a pullout of the Syrian forces from Lebanon will produce a breakthrough in the crisis and a reversal in 'Awn's stand, the source explains. President Ilyas al-Hirawi is further said to have asked President Mubarak for Egypt's participation in ongoing efforts to end the Lebanese crisis. The source further points to a desire on the part of Lebanese figures from both sides of Beirut to go to Cairo and explain their respective positions to President Mubarak. Egyptian Ambassador in Beirut Hasan Shash is said to be keeping himself informed of Lebanese developments to report to his Foreign Ministry on the situation.

Papers on Israeli Moves, 'Substitute Homeland'

NC2802145990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—In their editorials today, the newspapers AL-AKHBAR and AL-AHRAM denounce the ugly crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

Under the headline "The Merchant of Venice Appears in the Occupied Territories," AL-AKHBAR says that if reports about the Israeli authorities' involvement in the theft of Palestinian human organs for use in transplants are true, then this will be the most hideous crime that any country anywhere could commit against any people whose land it occupies by forces of arms.

The paper adds: Israel opposed Shakespeare's play "The Merchant of Venice" and made efforts to erase the image of Shylock, the Jewish merchant who demanded a pound of flesh for nonpayment of a debt. Today it is apparently attempting to turn the protagonist of this play into a real figure.

The paper points out that the difference is that the Palestinian people have never been indebted to Israel and so it cannot demand parts of the bodies of Palestinians as payment for a debt.

AL-AKHBAR stresses that this unprecedented crime cannot be allowed to pass without being put before world public opinion and without requesting the creation of an international investigating committee to put an end to the crimes in the occupied territories.

Under the headline "The Substitute Homeland—a Step Backward," AL-AHRAM criticizes the concept of a substitute Palestinian homeland recently put forward by Israel. The paper points out that this is a very dangerous, terrible, and provocative idea not only for the rights of the Palestinian Arab individual but also for contemporary civilization and progress.

AL-AHRAM refers to President Husni Mubarak's statement that any reasonable person well knows that the issue of a substitute homeland is a very serious matter, not only for the Arab nation but also for Israel because it opens the door to further troubles and takes us back 40 or 50 years.

AL-AHRAM says that President Mubarak confronted this absurdity by indicating clearly and without any exaggeration or oneupmanship that this would lead everyone, including Israel, to a "catastrophe".

The paper emphasizes that all talk about a substitute homeland is a blatant attempt to explode the whole issue.

Ghali Receives Mauritanian President's Envoy

NC0303152690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1436 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Mohamed Salem Lemine, Mauritanian mines and industry minister and envoy of Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, and Ahmed Abdelqader, the Mauritanian president's political adviser [name and title as received].

They discussed the results of the six-member committee meeting in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 February. The committee assists President Husni Mubarak in trying to settle the Senegalese-Mauritanian dispute. [passage omitted]

Deputy Interviewed on Assembly Knife Incident

PM0103162990 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 6 Mar 90 p 13

[Interview with National Democratic Party Deputy Ahmad Shatiyah by Ashraf al-'Ashri in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-'Ashri] What exactly is the story of the knife?
[Shatiyah] The knife idea occurred to me two months ago. To be specific it was after Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi delivered the government statement. I did not sense that there was anything new that would move people, give them hope, or destroy the sources of corruption in the country. So I used the idea of the knife just as a symbol and a way of expressing the need to right the wrong. The knife was an appeal to the government to bring the "illicit income law" back from its deep slumber.

[Al-'Ashri] How did you manage to get the knife into the People's Assembly knowing that that was prohibited and that if caught, you would have been prosecuted?
[Shatiyah] I put it in an envelope in my car coming in because it was a long knife, more like a cleaver which I could not hide in my clothes.

[Al-'Ashri] Why did you wish to present the knife to President Mubarak as a gift?
[Shatiyah] I no longer have any faith in the People's Assembly or the government. Our only hope for salvation is President Mubarak himself. He is always calling for the elimination of corruption. Perhaps he needs some honest men on his side to purge the country. So I could find nothing other than the knife to offer him. The rest is up to him.

[Al-'Ashri] Why did you not present the knife to President Mubarak in person instead of leaving it at the People's Assembly?
[Shatiyah] I did not leave the knife at the People's Assembly. I still have it until the day comes when I will present it to President Mubarak.

[Al-'Ashri] Why did you refuse to specify the places and areas of corruption to the People's Assembly and its members?
[Shatiyah] How could I talk to the People's Assembly about corruption? That would require hours and hours over several days. The Assembly members are only allowed to speak for 10 minutes each in reply to the government statement.

[Al-'Ashri] How did the People's Assembly members and ministers react when you brandished the knife?
[Shatiyah] It was a surprise to everyone. They were all stunned. I could see shock and gloom all over their faces.

[Al-'Ashri] Did you actually submit your resignation from the People's Assembly?
[Shatiyah] Yes, I did submit my resignation to the People's Assembly but I still do not know whether it has been accepted or rejected.

[Al-'Ashri] What would you do if the resignation is not accepted?
[Shatiyah] I will not go to the Assembly unless corruption is treated and exposed or unless moves are started in that direction because continuing to be part of the People's Assembly would mean that I am a political mercenary which I utterly refuse to be.

[Al-'Ashri] Is it true that you came under heavy pressure to withdraw your resignation?
[Shatiyah] No, there has been no pressure.

[Al-'Ashri] It has been claimed that you submitted your resignation twice before and then withdrew it. How true is that?
[Shatiyah] No, that only happened once before in 1978 over the problem of about 600 families in the Dumyat Governorate. The government had intended to expel them from the land they had reclaimed, so I stood up to the government and threatened to resign if it did not rescind its decision. The government, under Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, did indeed revoke its decision.

[Al-'Ashri] Do you intend to remain in the National Democratic Party [NDP]?
[Shatiyah] I am one of the NDP founders in Egypt. That dates back to the days of President al-Sadat. I will not leave it.

[Al-Ashri] But if you did resign from the NDP, which other party would you join?
[Shatiyah] I would not join any political party so long as the political atmosphere in Egypt is impure.

[Al-'Ashri] Are you then announcing your retirement from politics?
[Shatiyah] I will not retire. When the political atmosphere improves I will go back to the People's Assembly and any other political position but right now I prefer to work on my father's land instead of applauding others or being applauded by others over nothing.

[Al-'Ashri] Do you not fear grave reaction by the NDP?
[Shatiyah] I fear nobody. I am prepared to appear before the people's assembly's values committee or another other responsible authority. I would not even fear a sentence of death by hanging in the pursuit of the objective I have dedicated myself to, which is purging Egypt of the big sharks.

'Secret Circular' Reveals Higher Medicine Prices

JN0103184790 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] The prices of most imported and local medicines increased yesterday by 25-40 percent. The Health Ministry issued a secret circular to this effect to be distributed among pharmacies. Health Minister Dr Raghib Duwaydar earlier received instructions about the new prices of medicines.

Libya

Sudan's Al-Bashir Attends People's Congress

Makes Arrival Statement

LD0203103490 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpts] This evening the brother leader of the revolution received General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council. The meeting was attended by brother Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir. [passage omitted]

On his arrival in Tripoli, Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir made the following statement:

[Begin Al-Bashir recording] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionat. Our visit to the Great Jamahiriyah is a visit to our own country to attend the General People's Congress. I have with me brothers from the people's committees in Sudan who want to know their brothers in the Jamahiriyah and to see close-up the revolution of the Jamahiriyah and to benefit from it in Sudan.

The visit comes within the context of visits to brothers from more consultations and exchanges of views over the future of relations between our two fraternal peoples, to study problems and issues facing the Arab world, and to coordinate positions in all matters both regional and international. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Announces Joint Unity Project

LD0203174990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1202 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Speech by Sudanese Prime Minister General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir at the General People's Congress in Tripoli, Libya, on 2 March—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, the instigator of the revolution of the masses, brother members of the General People's Congress honorable guests. Peace be upon you.

On behalf of the people of Sudan, I would like to salute you during the celebration of the day that announced the start of the era of the masses and the downfall of the faked dictatorships. [passage omitted] The Arab nation is called upon today to announce a form of unity so that the opportunity will not be missed, and bar the way for a more ferocious colonialism. Sudan supports the unionist project presented by the brother leader of the revolution and the Arab nation.

Brothers: Relations between the Arab people in Sudan and its Arab brothers in the Great Jamahiriyah are deeply entrenched in history, strengthened by the common struggle, and confirmed by language and conviction.

The revolution of national salvation in Sudan has started its people's march to hand over authority to the masses. The Sudanese people have tried various systems, they suffered from the flames of parties and tribalism. This rift in the party system nearly managed to destroy the unity of the country and people, the Sudanese people tried the experience of one single party during the era of Numayri, and experienced injustice, dictatorship, and rottenness. The Sudanese people also tried a military regime between 1958 to 1964, which resulted in mismanagement, debts, and mortgaged the people's will to foreign powers.

The revolution of national salvation in Sudan announced the setting up of people's committees for salvation. It held a number of political and geographical congresses in order to search for peace. We convened a national congress for peace. The resolutions of this congress became guidelines for the revolutions during its quest for peace. The resolutions of the national congress for salvation are know being implemented in order to salvage the Sudanese economy.

People's committees are pursuing their powers, we must develop these powers so that the committees will be able to assume control of their authority. We have also started to set up forces for people's defense so that the people will be able to defend themselves. This year will witness the formation of the General People's Congress in Sudan so that it will assume full authority. [applause, slogans]

We withdrew authority from the party members and handed it over to the people so they will exercise it through their people's congresses.

Brothers, we are not powerseekers, we will return power to the people very soon, God willing. I would like to convey to you, brother, and to the people of the Great Jamahiriyah, and on behalf of the Sudanese people, a unionist project between the Sudan and the Jamahiriyah. This project aims at uniting policies in the fields of education, culture, economy, security, and information. The unionist project also provides for a higher political body, higher ministerial body, technical committee, and a general secretariat that monitors the unionist action between the two countries.

While this project does not meet the ambitions of both peoples in the realization of a comprehensive unity, our hope, however, is that this project will develop through the people's common action. The people's committees in Sudan will adopt this project, protect it from changing policies, and support it through continued supervision. It is the people's authority that is able to realize the unity of the Arab people.

Brothers, it gives me pleasure to announce before this congress that freedom of movement from the Jamahiriyah to the Sudan is operational as of today for the people of the Great Jamahiriyah for the sake of cohesion between the two peoples.

In conclusion, I would like to present the union project to the brother secretary of pan-Arabism and leader of the 1 September Revolution so that this project becomes a document among other documents of your Congress. God is great, dignity to the Arab nation, and peace be upon you. [applause, slogans]

Honored at Al-Qadhdhafi Banquet

LD0303191290 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi [March] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution last night held a dinner banquet in honour of General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, and the delegation in his company.

Present at the banquet were Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salim Ahmad Jallud, Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir, and Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi.

Also present were the secretary of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation, the secretary of the People's Committee for Strategic Industries, the governor of the Central Bank of Libya and the director of the General Board for Agricultural Production.

Further on Al-Bashir Speech

LD0303223190 Tripoli JANA in English 1819 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi [March], 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, declared that Arab unity will, God willing, be realised from the ocean to the Gulf.

In a speech to the masses of the Basic People's Congresses for the municipality of Tripoli, who went out in a massive march in support of the unionist project, General al-Bashir said "We in Sudan decided not to spare any effort in endeavouring with our Arab brothers towards the realisation of the unity of the Arab nation in confronting its enemies who are trying to harm it and they know its resources and capabilities if it became united."

He pointed out "This era is an era of unity and [words indistinct] the masses around us moving and longing for unity and we have nothing left except to respond for the Arab masses are imposing their will everywhere calling for unity and there is no choice before the leaders except to move earnestly towards total Arab unity God willing. Thus the borders drawn by colonialism must be removed and all the Arab armies and resources must unite to drive away the enemies of the Arab nation. The unification and mobilisation of the resources of the resources of the Arab nation for the progress of the Arab nation and the return of this nation to its natural place as a leader and pioneer in this disturbed world." [sentence as received]

He added "I reaffirm to you, O daring and generous people—generous masses kind faces—that the revolution of national salvation will not sleep until the transfer of total power to the people without any part missing of this power and until the realisation of total Arab unity from the ocean to the Gulf."

Sends Message of Thanks

LD0403104290 Tripoli JANA in English 0910 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Mar (JANA)—General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council sent the following message to the leader of the revolution as he was about to leave Great Jamahiriyah:

I have the pleasure, as I leave sisterly Great Jamahiriyah at the end of my short visit, to express to you our sincerest thanks and gratitude for the great welcome and original Arab hospitality with which we were received. Also I have the pleasure to laud the good results of our talks and the deep fraternal ties linking us. I would like to reaffirm to you that we will endeavour, with God's permission, to enhance these bonds in consolidation of the expected unity. We pray to God to help us succeed for the sake of the unity of the Arab nation, its dignity and making its peoples happy. With my highest expressions of fraternal esteem.

Gives Horse to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0403170890 Tripoli JANA in English 1619 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi [March] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, presented, as a gift, an Arab horse to the leader of the revolution.

General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir expressed his great pleasure and highest appreciation for the growing development in fraternal relations between the Arab people of Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

In a letter to the leader of the revolution, General al-Bashir said "I have the pleasure of presenting this gift to you as an expression of gratitude and appreciation for your continuous efforts towards the unification of the arab nation."

General al-Bashir added "giving you an Arab horse did not come as a mere coincidence for we are fully aware of your love and respect for the glories and heritage of Islam and Arabism... and your continuous efforts to follow in the footsteps of our past great figures and heroes and the taking of an Arab tent as your headquarters is a case in point."

General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir concluded his letter by expressing his best wishes to the Libyan Arab people and the leader of its great revolution and further progress and prosperity.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Visiting Delegations

Meets Egyptian Delegation

LD0303223490 Tripoli JANA in English 1832 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi [March] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution this morning received Rifa't al-Mahjub. The president of the People's Council in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the delegation in his company who came to Great Jamahiriyah to attend the Libyan Arab people's festivities celebrating the 13th anniversary of the proclamation of people's power and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history.

Receives Jordanian Official

LD0303224390 Tripoli JANA in English 1835 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi [March] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution today received Husayn Muhammad al-Rawashda, the member of the Jordanian parliament and chairman of the parliamentary legal committee, who is attending the Libyan Arab People's festivities marking the 13th anniversary of the proclamation of people's power and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history.

Cooperation Agreement With Romania Signed 1 Mar

LD0103223190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] The minutes of a cooperation agreement between the Great Jamahiriyah and Romania were signed in Tripoli this morning.

The minutes were signed by brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning and Alexandru Margaritescu, Romanian minister of foreign trade. The minutes provide for cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Morocco

King Hassan Celebrates Throne Day Anniversary

Grants Pardons

LD0303114290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the glorious day of the throne of the year 1990, our lord, may God make his victory eternal, gave his obeyed order:

—to pardon what remains of the prison and detention sentences in favor of 249 prisoners;
—to reduce the prison or detention sentences in favor of 142 detainees;
—to pardon the prison sentences, while keeping the fines, in favor of 16 people;
—to pardon all or what remains of the prison sentences, and cancel the fines, in favor of 10 people;
—to transform life imprisonment into a fixed term in favor of one person. [passage omitted]

Delivers Speech

LD0303202190 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Speech by King Hassan II on the 29th anniversary of his accession to the throne; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] From the very beginning we proclaimed our attachment to the multiparty system at a time when its principle was a controversial issue in most parts of the Third World. Thus, the first constitution we proposed to you in a referendum and which you approved stipulated that the single party system was prohibited. We reiterated this prohibition after you approved, in a referendum conducted in 1970, a revised constitution making the single party system illegal. This article remained unchanged in the constitution of 1972 which is still in force. [passage omitted]

Beloved people, there is no doubt that our generation is fortunate as it is surrounded by God's care and protection and His assistance to enable this generation to achieve its ambitions and aspirations. The best evidence for this is that we lived last year events which will leave their imprint on history in view of their importance and the impact they will have on the future. We also witnessed transformations of an exceptional character, encompassing all fields and various levels. For our part, we endeavored, at the domestic level, to give some sort of harmony to our action in the political, economic, and social fields. Thus we proposed to the deputies a draft law on privatization to obtain their approval. The reason is that the political system is based on liberalization and pluralism and is incompatible with the economic system where the state has the monopoly over most sectors. The state's intervention in the economy was a necessity dictated by the circumstances which the country witnessed at the dawn of independence. Our economic sector was heavily dependent on the outside world and the Moroccan citizen did not have the technical competence nor the financial means to replace the foreigner. This means that the state's intervention at that time to fill that gap was out of necessity. The aim was also the safeguard of the country's economic independence more than it was in response to ideological motives or doctrinal reasons. [passage omitted]

All these reasons together convinced us of the need to open the door to the private sector to enable the latter to replace the public sector in some fields. Needless to say, that this subject received our best attention and scrutiny and we took this decision after a long reflection. However, we are bound by our anxiousness not to touch the vital and strategic sectors.

In this respect, we addressed a message to our prime minister centered on the measures to be taken to facilitate and speed up the investments operations because we noticed the complexity of the regulations governing the acceptance of investments. This naturally delayed the decisions on the requests put forward by the investors. The royal message was explained to the citizens on a large scale. All the signs lead us to believe that all the citizens concerned understood its purport for the latest figures indicate that the volume of investments increased by 40 percent in 1989. We attach similar attention to the decentralization and the extension of powers and tasks. Thus, we made continuous efforts in this direction providing the local governments with the necessary instruments to increase their revenues and develop the means of their action. With this we highlighted our anxiousness to ensure additional resources to finance the purchase of equipment and cover the local needs. This will only entrench and deepen our democratic path to benefit all the citizens, at every level. [passage omitted]

In this respect, we would like to inform you or remind you of new developments which occurred since our last address last year on the same occasion. The past two years were, on the whole, positive as far as we are concerned. God blessed the country and the people. Rains fell on every part of the Kingdom. The agricultural sector was revived after the difficult years of drought. This also affected the other sectors. Thank God our

situation improved to everybody's delight and satisfaction. However, we regret to say that to maintain this situation as it is, this year we must make additional efforts in spite of the fact that the measures we launched and the encouraging steps we made all bore fruit. But a number of external factors, independent of our will, can put obstacles in our way and slow down the pace of improvement which began these past few years.

The prices of hydrocarbons saw a noticeable increase which upset our predictions and the plans on which we had built our strategy. Morever, and this is more important, some of our clients did not abide by the terms of the contracts we signed with them on the sale of phosphate which constitutes, as you know beloved people, the main source of revenue. This led to a slump in our sales of this material and had a negative effect on our budget.

There is another element but this one is domestic. It was we who aspired to it, proposed it and decided on it ourselves; and it is linked to the difficulties which we will face this year. It is the result of our attention and care for the state employees. Indeed, we decided to review their situation despite the pressure and accumulating costs sustained by the state budget. [passage omitted]

Therefore, we issued a decree to our government calling on them to take all these facts into account and to adopt a policy of balanced and judicious austerity aimed at cutting the non-essential expenses without jeopardizing the trend of economic growth and social benefits. We must implement what we deem necessary to implement and produce. We must also postpone to more favorable years what is desired. [passage omitted]

Beloved people. There is no doubt that the most prominent event which our country witnessed last year was the referendum which we conducted to extend the mandate for our deputies at the municipal and rural councils for two more years. We do not need to remind you the aim behind the postponement of this referendum because you know it very well. We are supposed to hold the local and national elections in 1990 but we suggested in Nairobi in 1981 to the OAU summit the holding of a referendum on self-determination in the Sahara. We took that initiative in response to the pressing demands made to us by a number of heads of friendly states and also out of our belief that our citizens' attachment to the Moroccan character of the southern provinces leaves no room for doubt and that their loyalty to their king is unblemished.

Indeed, beloved people, the OAU summit unanimously endorsed our proposal and it was adopted by the United Nations which entrusted its secretary general to endeavor to hold a referendum in the Sahara and this will take place within the next few months, God willing.

The postponement of the legislative and local elections is due to two reasons. First, our Saharan provinces have exercised, since they joined the national fold, their right to elect their representatives in the local councils and in the House of Representatives. This put us before two options, both of them difficult. We could either hold the elections on a fixed date and exclude from them our Saharan provinces, but we immediately disregarded such an idea because we found it to be illogical and unreasonable. Or we could hold the elections in all the parts of the homeland, including the Sahara, but we would give others the chance to accuse us of duplicity and of prejudging the outcome of the referendum which will be conducted in the Sahara soon. The second reason which is of equal importance is that the municipal and legislative elections were always characterized by fierce and strong competition within the framework of the legality. Therefore we decided to spare the citizens the electoral preoccupations and anxieties to allow them to devote themselves, with their minds and hearts, to the subject of the referendum and to work to face it as members of the same body. The postponement of the elections can only reinforce our credibility which we are eager to maintian within the international community and preserve the excellent reputation and image of our country at the international level. [passage omitted]

After the meetings held in Marrakech and Tunisia, we managed to draw up a plan of action and we will do our utmost to implement it in the hope that it will constitute a useful and effective contribution to the efforts made to find a solution to the Palestinian problem. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

KUNA Criticizes U.S. Support for Israel

LD0403120190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0929 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 4 (KUNA)—An air of pessimism appears to engulf the Middle East, one of the world's hottest beds of tension, as analysts tend to believe the region could be heading for a dark tunnel.

The gloom originated in the indications that political analysts read between the lines of official statements exchanged in the past 48 hours between the U.S. and its strategic ally in the region, Israel.

On Thursday U.S. Secretary of State James Baker underscored Washington's insistence that it should receive assurances from Israel that the Jewish State would not expand Jewish statements in the occupied Arab territories before it can receive financial aid for housing the influx of emigrants.

Less than 24 hours later, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir fired back, rejecting the U.S. conditions and repeating allegations that housing hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jewish emigrants would have nothing to do with Israel's settlement policy.

Washington's ostensibly firm stance on Israel's plans to settle more Jews in the occupied Arab areas could not be more theatrical, as Washington took only a few hours after Shamir's angry statements to back down and assure Israel that the planned funds will flow smoothly to Tel Aviv.

The bland U.S. attitude and the White House's total surrender to the Zionist blackmail left it beyond any shadow of doubt that the U.S. is too conspicuously obstructing peace efforts in the Middle East.

By turning a deaf ear to the Arab world's growing concern over the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, the U.S. is virtually blocking efforts for holding an international conference on Middle East peace.

Washington has already made itself an accomplice in what became to be known in the Arab world as "the crime of the era"—the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel—by refusing to accept Soviet emigrants, except for the elderly who apparently would not serve Israel's terrorist designs.

The history of U.S. financial support to Israel can be summed up in $51 billion in aid funneled into the Jewish state over the past 42 years.

On the political front, the U.S., since 1970 to date, has wielded its United Nations veto power 32 times, blocking resolutions that would have condemned the Zionist state and isolated it in the world community. The combination of U.S. lavish support for Israel and sweet talk to Arabs can only be viewed by Arabs as an insult to their intelligence.

Thus, the U.S. has so painstakingly nurtured Israel and avoided any move that could anger its ally in the region at the same time it turned its back on about 200 million Arabs who have deposited hundreds of billions of dollars in American banks and imported possibly as much for the U.S. market. This in itself testifies that the United States continues to care little for anything other than Israel's military supremacy over its Arab neighbors and the Zionist state's continued occupation of Arab territories.

The U.S. is seeing to it that both the U.S. and Israel did not read history well and appear to be adrift in the sea of might and arrogance to the extent that they are ignoring the will of the Arab nation.

A reminder to Israel has been sent by H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, who said in a recent interview with the Soviet OGONYOK magazine, that military powers will not snuff off the flames of the Palestinian intifada.

Through the Israeli brutalities against Palestinians feed on the U.S. support, the Washington Administration still wants Arabs to believe that it is earnest in its efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. But Washington would be wise to think that it cannot fool Arabs all the time. For there is one key way to put pressure on Israel: to halt the lifeline that has ensured the arrogant Israel of security.

Arabs have offered all they got for peace and if the U.S. genuinely wants them to be its friends, it must desist from imposing its will on them and to deal with them on basis of mutual respect and common interests and to rid itself of the master-slave mentality.

President Bush's last night statement reiterating his country's objection to the resettlement of Jews in the occupied Arab territories and welcoming the reported acceptance of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir to holding Israeli-Palestinian talks on elections in the West Bank and Gaza is worth mentioning. However, we would like to affirm that Israeli-Palestinian talks and the elections were never the target in themselves.

The problem in the Middle East is Israel's repeated aggressions on the Arab countries and its occupation of Palestine and other Arab lands.

Hence, the goal of any negotiations and natural result of any elections should be guaranteeing withdrawal of the occupation forces and respecting the Palestinians' choice of their representative and right to self-determination.

PDRY

Iraqi Chief of Staff Meets With Defense Official

EA0403173390 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Brother Staff Colonel Haytham Qasim al-Tahir, alternate member of the Political Bureau, deputy minister of defense, and chief of staff, gave a dinner party yesterday evening in honor of the sisterly Iraqi military delegation, led by Lieutenant General Nazar 'Abd-al-Salim, chief of staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces, who is visiting Democratic Yemen. [passage omitted]

Friendly words were exchanged at the gathering that covered a number of important issues concerning the brotherly relations between the army [as heard] of the two countries, and a review of the brotherly steps between the two [Yemeni] parts.

Saudi Arabia

Lebanon's Al-Hirawi Meets With Foreign Minister

LD0403213890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Hafr al-Batin, 4 Nar (SPA)—[Lebanese President] al-Hirawi at his residence in Hafr al-Batin received the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, this evening.

The following attended the meeting: Ibrahim al-'Anqari, personal adviser to King Fahd; Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers, and acting information minister; and Dr. Mizar Madani, director of the Arab Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Press Statement on Visit Issued

LD0503225390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1735 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Hafr al-Batin, 5 Mar (SPA)—A press statement was issued today at the end of the visit to Saudi Arabia by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Here is its text:

In response to an invitation from King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, His Excellency Ilyas al-Hirawai, president of Lebanon, paid a visit to Saudi Arabia 4-5 March, accompanied by an official delegation headed by Dr. Salim al-Huss, Lebanese prime minister and foreign minister.

During the visit the president and the prime minister conducted concentrated meetings with King Fahd, during which they reviewed the Lebanese situation, assessed the stands of all the sides concerned with that crisis, and discussed the new events in the Lebanese arena, especially since the eruption of the recent clashes that brought tragedy and destruction beyond the limits of reason and logic, and whose price was paid by the innocent in blood, life, and continuous daily sufferings that changed life into hell for everyone.

King Fahd expressed his deep sorrow and extreme regret for the innocent citizens who became victims of these regrettable clashes, which defeated all efforts to turn the page of the past in preparation for the brith of a new era in Lebanon based on legitimacy and reconciliation, and in which security, peace, and stability prevail. He also expressed firm confidence this security setback will not weaken the commitment of the Lebanese people to continue the march toward ending a crisis that has continued for 15 years and to stand firmly and strongly in the face of the evil forces that try to keep Lebanon prey to sedition, chaos, division, and fragmentation.

The two sides agreed it is regrettable and sad the security collapse occured when the march of peace has taken its first practical steps with the election of the president, the formation of a government, and the restoration of constitutional life to fraternal Lebanon. These steps were achieved through the continuous Arab efforts, exerted with the cooperation of Lebanese officials and of the Arab sides concerned with the Lebanese issue.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the prime minister conveyed the thanks of the Lebanese Government and people to the king, the government, and the people of Saudi Arabia for their effective efforts and concentrated actions within the framework of the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee to rescue Lebanon from its crisis, to ease the pain and tragedy of its people, and to restore its unity, sovereignty, and independence. The president and the prime minister also expressed their special appreciation to the custodian of the two holy mosques for the great role he plays in everything that helps the higher Lebanese interests.

King Fahd welcomed the Lebanese president's visit, and reiterated the Kingdom's complete, absolute support for legitimacy in Lebanon. He repeated Saudi Arabia's commitment, together with the fraternal members of the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee, to continue to support the march of peace and reconciliation in Lebanon and to give all necessary help to bring Lebanon out of its tragedy, according to the resolutions of the Casablanca summit and the statements of the committee. He also appealed to all Lebanese citizens, whatever their sects or allegiances may be, to preserve the gains included in the document on national concord, which was issued unanimously by the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if, and to gather around the lawful government, because this is the only way to put an end to the security setbacks that wasted lives, brought ruin and destruction, and consumed everything they had, and because this the firm guarantee for the unity of the Lebanese land, people, and institutions and for the consecration of Lebanese freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

Concludes Visit, Departs 5 Mar

NC0503194590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] The Lebanese delegation to Saudi Arabia concluded its discussions with Saudi officials this afternoon and left for Algiers. The delegation expressed its satisfaction with the results of the discussions, for which no communique has yet been issued.

A Lebanese source accompanying President al-Hirawi expressed the Lebanese delegation's satisfaction with the results of the discussions saying: King Fahd and Saudi Arabia have shown full support and backing for Lebanon and its legitimate authority and for Lebanon's reunification, reconstruction, and the strengthening of its Army. The source added the discussions concerned the political, material, and military support for the legitimate Lebanese authority.

It has been reiterated it has been agreed the tripartite committee will conduct political contacts soon with some Arab and international parties aimed at enabling the Lebanese legitimate authority to impose its sovereignty on the Lebanese soil and at solving the eastern area issue.

Yemen Arab Republic

PRC's Qian Qichen Meets Prime Minister

JN0403155590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and General Committee member, today received PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, currently visiting our country. They discussed relations between the two countries, international developments, and topics of mutual concern.

Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and General Committee member; and Zheng Dayong, PRC ambassador in Sanaa attended.

Meets With President, Departs

JN0503135590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today received in his office PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who gave him a letter from Chinese President Yang Shangkun, expressing appreciation of the Chinese leadership for current moves to reunify the Yemeni homeland.

The two sides reviewed ties between the two friendly countries and Arab and international developments. Brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and General Committee member; our country's ambassador in Beijing; and the PRC ambassador in Sanaa attended the meeting.

The Chinese foreign minister since has left Sanaa after a three-day visit to our country. On hand to see him off were brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and our country's ambassador to the PRC, as well as the Chinese ambassador in Sanaa and embassy staff.

'Giant Oil Pipeline' Under Construction

JN0503122090 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 5, INA—The Iraqi National Company for oil projects started the execution of a giant oil pipeline project linking the north of Iraq with the south.

In a statement exclusive to AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of today, an official source at the company said that by implementing the project of the oil pipline, the longest from the technical and specific point of view, Iraq would own the second strategic oil pipeline.

The source announced that this project would mainly depend on the national experience of Iraqi cadres after long years of reliance on foreign companies. The source added that the 570-km-long pipeline would be laid along 670 kms. [sentence as received]

By giving the priority to the national cadres and companies, Iraq is applying its firm policy of self-reliance in all economic and developmental fields. On the other hand, world oil experts have pointed out that Iraq does not have the ability to implement such a project saying that if it really has, it will take Iraq seven years to implement such a project, but with primitive methods.

The official source confirmed that 22 percent of the project had been implemented since mid-January 1990. The project consists of 32 main intersections, set up by the rotary drilling of the pipeline, in addition to a big network of large-diameter pipelines that will operate in two opposite directions, north and south. This pipeline, which is expected to be completed within 23 months—a record time for such project, will enhance the national economy and save hard currency for the country.

Message to UN Calls For Direct Talks With Iran

JN0503130490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] United Nations, 5 Mar (INA)—Iraq has reiterated its welcome to hold genuine and direct talks with Iran to implement Resolution 598 as a plan for comprehensive and lasting peace. This came in a message Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Ambari, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations, sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The Iraqi message notes that the form and mission of these talks were defined in the 8 August 1988 agreement between the two parties through the secretary general to reach a joint understanding of the provisions of Resolution 598 and the timing and procedures to implement the resolution. Iraq expressed its surprise that the statement issued by the Security Council last week made no mention of the 8 August 1988 agreement that was the basis of the cease-fire and, later, the embarkation of talks in Geneva.

The Iraqi representative said Iran is fully responsible for the failure of the talks since that date. He affirmed that the nonmention of the 8 August 1988 agreement reached between the two parties through the secretary general—with his personal guarantee—seriously questions the credibility of any agreements or arrangements that can be reached by the two parties through the secretary general with regard to the implementation of Resolution 598 as a peace plan.

Iraq noted in the message to the secretary general that it was and is still eager to achieve a comprehensive, lasting peace and to implement Resolution 598 as a peace plan. The message adds that the Security Council and the international community know full well that the Iranian side is the one that obstructs peace by its refusal to abide by the direct talks [provided] by the 8 August 1988 agreement. He noted that the Security Council and the international community also know very well Iran's despicable stand on the issue of prisoners, thus violating Paragraph Three of Resolution 598 and the 1949 Geneva Convention on prisoners of war.

Iraq affirmed in the message that its endeavors to activate the situation were represented by many constructive proposals and initiatives, particularly President Saddam Husayn's initiative announced on 5 January.

Iraq reiterated to the UN General Secretariat its readiness to continue contacts with the secretary general to learn about his plans and proposals, affirming its commitment to achieving a comprehensive, lasting peace.

Pakistani Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

JN0503160890 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 5, INA—Pakistan's defence minister, Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, and his accompanied delegation left here today at the end of a three-day official visit to Iraq. During his visit, Mr. Cheema had an audience with President Saddam Husayn in which the Iraqi-Pakistani relations were reviewed.

In a statement to INA upon departure, Mr. Cheema expressed his best wishes to the Iraqi people for continuing progress and prosperity. He was seen off at the airport by Iraqi defence minister, General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal and top Iraqi officers as well as Pakistan's ambassador to Iraq.

Officials Protests Egyptian Envoy's Moves

LD0303095190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0742 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 3 (KUNA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni has repeatedly met with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal where he conveyed messages from the Israeli Labor Party leaders pertinent to the peace process in the region, it was reported here Saturday.

A senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry official told Kuwaiti daily "AL-RA'Y AL-'AAM," published here Saturday, that high ranking Israeli officials at the office of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir submitted a protest to Ambassador Basyuni for acting as a special messenger between the PLO and Labor Party leaders. The official affirmed that the Egyptian diplomat visited Cairo several weeks ago to explore Egypt's and PLO's reactions regarding proposals of Israeli War Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Basyuni attended a meeting held between presidents 'Arafat and Husni Mubarak after which he was handed a message with positive reactions to deliver to leaders of the Labor Party, the official concluded.

Arens: 'Binding Agreement' Needed With Labor

TA0503160990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Mar 90

[By Knesset affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[Text] Several hours before the Likud ministers convene, Foreign Minister Arens refuses to make public comments on whether he will demand the United States make additional clarifications, or if a positive response of some sort will be delivered to Baker. In any case, Arens again stresses one issue: The Likud and the Alignment must reach an explicit agreement before we enter into political actions and negotiations. The stands must be coordinated. The current state of affairs cannot continue, the foreign minister says.

[Begin Arens recording] I find myself in a situation where coalition members—often cabinet ministers—volunteered all kinds of concessions before the issue even appeared as part of the negotiations. In other words, they took the cards out of my hands, they pulled the rug out from under my feet. I do not think anyone would want to be the man responsible for conducting negotiations under such circumstances. I believe these circumstances must definitely change so we can conduct the negotiations in an efficient manner. [end recording]

On the eve of the decision of the Likud ministers, the Shamir camp fears the Alignment will cause problems in Cairo. Within the Likud it is expected even if there is an agreement at the first stage of the process, serious disagreements can be expected later to weaken the stand of the Israeli delegation when facing the Palestinian one. The foreign minister, therefore, wants to reach a new agreement with the Alignment before negotiations are begun.

[Begin Arens recording] I believe a binding agreement must be reached, so we can go to the negotiations—if we reach that stage—fully assured we do not repeat past experiences. [end recording]

The foreign minister this morning avoided reporting to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the details of his discussions with Secretary of State Baker. I did not report this to the Inner Cabinet, Arens said, therefore I do not believe I can make this report here. The head of the committee, Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, criticized Arens for this action and demanded detailed explanations be given.

Has Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu offered to resign as a result of his recent political statements, the foreign minister was asked.

[Begin Arens recording] Concerning things somebody else has done, you should ask that person. [end recording]

Shamir: Unity Needed To Solve Election Issue

TA0503173990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening told the National Religious Party Knesset faction he wishes to reach an agreement with the Alignment on two points: East Jerusalem Arabs' nonparticipation in the elections, and the steps the Israeli delegation to the talks in Cairo take if the Palestinian delegation declares it is a PLO delegation.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports the prime minister said the move entails understanding between the partners. If we are going to negotiate with people who in fact currently are the enemy and have interests which conflict with ours, we must reach an agreement between ourselves so we do not break up. The prime minister further noted he does not look positively on the fact attempts are being made to raise the profile of the Cairo meeting. Baker himself wants to take part in it, which will entail the participation of the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers, while the discussion will be about elections and in fact should be attended by elections experts, Shamir said.

The prime minister added that as yet there is no understanding between him and Defense Minister Rabin concerning the nonparticipation of East Jerusalem residents in the elections. Although the Alignment does not dispute the fact Jerusalem's unity must be kept intact, Shamir, however, demands an agreement with the Alignment be reached on the practical conclusions to be drawn from this understanding.

Arens Says No Ultimatum, Deadline From U.S.

TA0503180790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Addressing today's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said the United States has not delivered an ultimatum to Israel, and we must not take action under pressure. The Alignment and the Likud agree Palestinians from the diaspora should not be included in the Palestinian delegation and that Jerusalem should not be ceded. The government, however, speaks in two voices.

Minister Arens did not deny the reports his deputy, Binyamin Netanyahu, wanted to resign and that Netanyahu demands further clarifications from the United States. Ze'ev Kohen reports: [passage omitted]

The United States, Minister Arens said, has not imposed any time limitations on us; therefore, this time race against ourselves is unnecessary.

[Begin Arens recording] First of all, the United States handed us neither an ultimatum nor a deadline for presenting our reply. We will conduct the debates needed to reach a decision. After a reply is formulated, it will be relayed. [end recording]

In my talk with Baker, the foreign minister said, I said if we are to reach elections, an agreement on modalities first must be attained. Some elements demand the dialogue between the two delegations include the Palestinian state issue. Baker and I reached an agreement that the delegation to Cairo will be composed of Palestinian representatives residing in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The Alignment and the Likud agree, stressed Minister Arens, that Jerusalem is not open for debate, and we certainly will not negotiate with the Palestinian diaspora.

We must come to the Cairo encounter prepared, but what is most important—we must talk in one, fully precoordinated voice, Arens said. [passage omitted]

Alignment, Likud Agree on Portfolio Distribution

TA0503184890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Ministers Moshe Shahal and Dan Meridor this evening agreed on a government portfolios exchange. The Ecology and Environmental Protection Ministry will be handed over to the Alignment, and in return, the Likud will receive the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, which has been left unfilled since the retirement of Knesset Member Feldman of Agudat Yisra'el.

The Alignment now is ready to approve David Magen's ministerial nomination, appointing Moshe Nisim industry and trade minister, and including Moshe Qatzav in the Inner Cabinet. Our party affairs correspondent reports Alignment's Rafi Edri will be appointed ecology and environmental protection minister.

Rabin, Peres Offices Give Deadline on Decision

TA0503195790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Mar 90

[By political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Text] The headline of this evening's political situation is confusion, fog, and tension. While Likud ministers debate this very moment at the prime minister's bureau, his aides tell me it is not at all certain a resolution will be made here tonight. The prime minister still does not know how to make sure the PLO does not come in through the back door or window at the meeting in Cairo. The prime minister also wants to ensure a unified opinion of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinians, but he does not yet know how to attain it.

Is it true the prime minister is asking for more U.S. clarifications, I asked this evening. I did not ask for and did not receive any clarifications, the prime minister answered.

Only 200 meters east of there, in Shim'on Peres' bureau, this evening an unequivocal decision was made—until this weekend, no more. For 10 months Shamir has been offering evasions instead of resolutions. This time we will not let him laugh at the whole world, they say in Peres' bureau. Concerning the prime minister's demand the Alignment make a commitment to a unified stand in the Cairo talks, they say that just as he did not receive more assurances form the United States, he will not get them from us. He simply does not want to attain peace talks. These remarks were made by Peres' bureau.

Peres decided today that if by Thursday [8 March] there is no positive reply [from the Likud], the Labor Party Central Committee will convene and reach a resolution next week.

As usual, the intriguing question: What is Yitzhaq Rabin's stand? This evening the defense minister's bureau also officially announces: There is a limit to the Likud's foot-dragging and floundering. The last date for a decision is the beginning of next week, mid-week at the most. This means the distance between Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin this evening is narrowed down to only three days.

This, therefore, is the picture of the via dolorosa to Cairo. Despite the confusion, many in both camps said this evening that the tips of the pyramids already are visible at the end of the road of torture.

Peres: Labor Committed to 'United Jerusalem'

TA0503213190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, said this evening both he and the Labor Party have a strong commitment to a united Jerusalem, Israel's capital, and to Israel's sovereignty over the entire city.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports this was Minister Peres' comment regarding Washington's clarification that its objection to using the aid funds for the absorption of Soviet Jews [in the territories] includes Jerusalem's suburbs beyond the Green Line.

Likud Resolution on 'Continuing' Peace Process

TA0503231290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2300 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] The Likud ministers meeting on the political process has just ended. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports the opening statement of the resolution made says Israel is interested in continuing its peace initiative and in conducting the planned meeting with the Palestinian delegation.

At the same time, the Likud ministers demand an agreement be reached with the Alignment concerning the status of Jerusalem in the talks, and on quitting the negotiations if the Palestinian delegation declares it represents the PLO.

Shamir Speaks on Settlement in Territories

TA0503101490 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 4 Mar 90

["Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the Israel Bonds Organization conference on Sunday, 4.3.90, at the Knesset, Jerusalem; communicated in English by the prime minister's media adviser"—GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE subslug]

[Text] Mr. President, Leaders of the Bonds Organization, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am very pleased to be with you this evening as you conclude your festive conference and your short visit to the country. I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the men and women who, forty years ago, laid the foundation for, what has become, one of the most remarkable voluntary economic assistance programs in the world.

It required special dedication and vision to embark on this road of attracting investment for the young State of Israel whose economic foundation at that time was, to say the least, very fragile. But, the founders had confidence in the Jewish people. They believed in our people's deep love for Eretz Yisra'el. They were convinced that, if another instrument of economic aid were created it would mobilize additional resources for the historic task of State-building.

And now, 40 years later, we look back on the result of $10 billion invested in the economy through the Israel Bonds Organization and I congratulate each and every one of you on this achievement.

The 40-year span is a good indicator of the great change that has taken place in the country, and of the gigantic strides that we have taken. Let me give you a few examples:

Forty years ago, the Jewish population of Israel was less than one-and-a-quarter million. Today, thank God, we are closer to four million.

The number of tourists who came to us in 1950 was 33,000. Last year it was one-and-a-quarter million.

There were one hundred and forty thousand pupils and students in the schools and universities. Today, there are at least ten times as many.

But, my friends, nothing illustrates Israel's mission for the Jewish people better than the dramatic event that is taking place before our very eyes at this moment. I refer, of course, to the great Aliyah from the Soviet Union, and the national effort we are making to absorb the olim [immigrants] and integrate them successfully in the country. This is a new chapter in our history—one of the most important developments in the life of the nation since the creation of the State in 1948.

Aliyah is the raison d'etre of Israel. We have all dreamt of the time when Soviet Jews would come here in large numbers, and now that dream is becoming reality.

What we have done over the years to build factories, to build schools, to build roads, to develop the infrastructure, helps the integration of this large number of olim.

On the basis of the present numbers—and if we shall overcome the transport bottleneck—we estimate that we will have to build about 35,000 housing units; 300 new classrooms in our schools, and bigger ulpan facilities for the thousands of adult students. The cost of such an undertaking is estimated at more than one billion dollars for every 100,000 olim. The people of Israel will cover the major share of the costs, but we are relying on World Jewry to make extraordinary efforts to help in this great national enterprise.

We also face politically motivated obstruction. First, to avoid any further misunderstanding, let me repeat again that it is not the policy of the Government of Israel to direct the olim to Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Nor are there special incentives for those who do go there. But, if anyone expects me to say that we shall forbid any Jew from going to Judaea, Samaria or elsewhere—I shall never do that. The olim have complete freedom of choice.

This intense campaign to stop the Aliyah is led and directed by Arab governments. It is not a new phenomenon. They fought against Jewish immigration in the

20's, 30's and 40's, when our people were fleeing desperately from Nazi Europe and literally trying to save their lives. At that time the British were in charge, and they collaborated with the Arabs in this fatal policy. The great transformation in the status of the Jewish people is that today we are sovereign in our own land. As long as there is a State of Israel, the one and only Jewish state, the gates of Eretz Yisra'el will be open—night and day, for every Jew, under all conditions. We shall do everything in our power to bring our Soviet brethren here quickly and to integrate them successfully.

As for the campaign of hatred against the Aliyah, the reference to settlements in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza is only a pretext. The actions and statements by Arab leaders and media prove that it is only a pretext. It is the strenghthening of Israel by this Aliyah that they are fighting. We should, therefore, make it absolutely clear to everybody that we consider their attacks on Soviet Aliyah as an attempt to undermine the Jewish State and a threat to peace in the region.

Let me conclude with a few words about the peace process. Our attitude can be summed up as follows:

1. We are committed to our peace initiative of May 1988. If the Arabs had cooperated with us they would now be on the way to a better future in every respect. We will oppose attempts to move the process away from its original track to one that will lead it towards the PLO and a Palestinian state.

2. We are ready to conduct a dialogue with a group of Palestinian Arabs from the areas, but we shall not negotiate with the PLO whose aim is not peace, but the elimination of the Jewish state. We will not be party to any attempt to bring the PLO into the process through the front door or the back door.

3. Yerushalayim is not a subject for negotiations. It is not on the agenda. We shall not be party to any action that brings into the question of Yerushalayim as Israel's capital and the heart and soul of the entire Jewish people. Yerushalayim [Jerusalem] was united and will never be divided again.

We appreciate the efforts of the international leaders who want to be helpful and move the peace process forward. For them it is another unresolved international dispute. For us, it is life and existence. We shall not put our security at risk. No nation can ask of us concessions and sacrifices that they would never make if their own security were at stake.

My friends, as you start another year of Bonds activity, we face the future with courage and confidence. In many ways, these are great days in the life of the Jewish people.

We are witnessing and participating in a real Shivat Tziyon movement—Return to Zion—that will give strength to this nation, and develop the land. We are witnessing changes in Europe that have a major impact here in the Middle East. The new regimes, that are free and democratic are disengaging from previous automatic and massive support for Arab states and the PLO. We consider these changes a positive contribution to stability and peace and welcome the readiness of the newly freed states to renew their diplomatic ties with Israel and to cooperate with us on all levels.

But, while we rejoice at our partial success, we must understand that in order to further our objectives, we need Jewish unity above everything else—the united will and the united action of the entire Jewish people.

We need national unity. That is why I have struggled for the creation and continuation of governments of national unity and have always tried to unite the Jewish people around the world to the largest extent possible.

The first and second temples were destroyed because of senseless internal strife. The state of Israel is a symbol of the third temple, which should be rebuilt on the basis of "Ahavat Yisra'el", by mutual love, respect and brotherhood. It is our duty to protect our state; to make it strong, physically and economically; to develop the nation; and rally the whole Jewish people around 'Am Yisra'el and Eretz Yisra'el.

Likud Ministers Demands Unity Over Jerusalem, PLO

TA0603053690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Mar 90

[By party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] The Likud ministers spent long hours deliberating each and every word last night, contemplating the phrasing of a resolution whose principles were clear to them even before the meeting started. They sought every possible avenue to manacle the Alignment on the road to and during the next stage of the political process. This also emerges from remarks made by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. Have the Likud ministers decided to promote the process, Moshe Arens was asked:

[Begin recording] [Arens] Yes, but provided the Alignment ministers' consent is obtained in those vital issues we defined in our resolution.

[Raz] So at the moment the ball, in your opinion, is in the Alignment's court?

[Arens] Everything depends on our being able to present a united front and our ability to talk in unison in our contacts. [end recording]

Yosi Ahime'ir, the director of the Prime Minister's Office, reported the decision was unanimous. Incidentally, eight people participated in the session; David Levi boycotted it, and Yitzhaq Moda'i is abroad.

Following is the wording of the resolution, as read by Yosi Ahime'ir:

[Begin Ahime'ir recording] Following is the Likud ministers' resolutions reached during their session today, 5 March 1990.

A. Israel wants to pursue the peace process according to its peace proposal, and conduct the proposed meeting with a Palestinian group to prepare the procedures for elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. To make sure the meeting is successful, Israel must appear united. For that purpose, it first of all is necessary to have Likud-Alignment agreement on these essential and fundamental issues:
a. Securing Israeli sovereignty over united Jerusalem.
b. Preventing the PLO from taking control of the process. [end recording]

Regarding Jerusalem, the resolution specifies East Jerusalem Arabs will not participate in the process either by voting or by being elected.

As for the PLO, it is detailed that any attempt by that organization to sneak in and take control of the process in any way will result in termination of the process and Israel's withdrawal from it.

The Likud ministers' resolution last night concludes with a statement that the Alignment's consent to these issues will make it possible to pursue and promote the peace process.

Olmert on Settling Immigrants in Jerusalem

TA0603054690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Arab Affairs Minister Ehud Olmert [title as heard] last night said that the best answer to American criticism of Israeli government policies was to increase settlement by Soviet Jews in and around Jerusalem. Olmert, who was in London, met with Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave and expressed criticism of Britain's first official meeting with the PLO. London correspondent Jerry Lewis reports:

[Begin recording] [Lewis] Ehud Olmert last night called for Soviet Jews to be encouraged to settle in all parts of Jerusalem to show everyone, especially the Americans, that Jews have every right to settle in all parts of the city. He had just met Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave to deflect criticism over the issue of settling Soviet Jews, pointing out that though individually they had the perfect right to move anywhere in the territories, and the Israeli government had no powers to stop them, there was no deliberate government policy of encouraging them to go to the West Bank. The Arab affairs minister, however, told Israel Radio that he took a different view over settling Soviet Jews in Israel's capital.

[Olmert] Well, the best answer to the Americans is to continue the settling of Jews in every part of Jerusalem. Unfortunately, the Americans do not see eye to eye with Israel on this issue, but Jerusalem is the undivided capital city of Israel, and as such, in every part of Jerusalem, Jews are entitled to live. We hope to encourage many of the Russian immigrants to come and live in Jerusalem, in every part of Jerusalem—whether they like it or not.

[Lewis] During Mr. Olmert's 45-minute meeting with Mr. Waldegrave, he took the opportunity to air Israeli criticism of last week's first substantive talks between the British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and the senior PLO official, Bassam Abu-Sharif. Israel, he added, was surprised and disappointed at the change of direction within the British Government on the issue of senior ministerial meetings with the PLO. It had appeared to be an upgrading of their relationship with the organization.

However, British sources said Mr. Waldegrave tried to reassure Mr. Olmert that there was no change in British Government policy towards the PLO, and nor did the PLO's unilateral change in their title to one of a PLO delegation represent a change in their status in Britain. [end recording]

Peres: Alignment Stance on Jerusalem 'Unequivocal'

TA0603060090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Shalom Qital and Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Mr. Vice Prime Minister.
[Peres] Good morning.

[Qital] Where are you heading?
[Peres] Toward the peace process.

[Golan] Can you see Rabin on the way, too? What do you think he will do with these Likud ministers' resolutions?
[Peres] Why do you not stop all this business? There is no Rabin vs. Peres; there is the Labor Party. Both of us are members of one party; it is not that the party belongs to two men, but that the two men belong to the party.

[Qital] Yes, but these two men sometimes have differing views, which is legitimate.
[Peres] Then the party will decide. I do not think that in this case the views differ, because what did we have here? There are two very grave things here: The Likud's decisions conflict with the peace plan's basic guidelines.

[Qital] Why? If the Alignment is asked....
[Peres, interrupting] Give me just one minute. We deliberately refrained from introducing the issue of the voting rights for the East Jerusalem residents into these basic guidelines. This followed a decision, it is not an omission. Why was that? Because this is a controversial issue. They now find it necessary to include something which was not included in the basic guidelines. This is the first thing. Second, this is chutzpah, if you will pardon the expression. What is this: Is Shamir questioning our attitude toward Jerusalem or our attitude toward the PLO? On what grounds?

Let me tell you something: The group which currently heads the Likud held certain views during the Camp David talks. I now ask myself whether, if the current group had headed the Likud at that time, would we have had an agreement with Egypt at all? They held a certain view regarding Jordan, and I find I am asking myself once again: What is going to happen now; where are they going?

But let me get back to the main issues: Regarding Jerusalem, the Alignment's position is unequivocal. We do not need a kosher seal from either Mr. Shamir or Mr. Arens, or from anyone. It is chutzpah to doubt the Alignment's position, which is unequivocal in support of a united Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, which cannot be repartitioned either today or tomorrow or in any negotiations. Why should they doubt it? It sounds to me more like electioneering than a dialogue.

Second, I do not understand why 140,000 Jordanian citizens residing in Jerusalem cannot vote in Jordan, for example, or even in the territories. How can that affect Jerusalem? Jerusalem will remain united. I do not doubt us, nor do I wish to underestimate anyone else. We under no circumstances will let the Likud do that.

Why is the Likud getting all worked up at the last moment? After all, at first the Likud wanted assurances from the Americans, even though the Alignment was prepared to accept Baker's five points. They failed, so now they want to shove it all back on us.

[Qital] Mr. Peres, if the Likud does not budge, if these are its terms, would you recommend the Labor Party secede from the government?
[Peres] I am not in the habit of making my recommendations public before the party bodies meet.

[Golan] Will you demand a decision already today, during the Labor ministers' meeting?
[Peres] I think it is beyond any question. Under the present circumstances, I cannot imagine that anyone will suggest entering into the negotiations in the first place.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Mr. Peres.
[Peres] You are quite welcome.

Palestinian Reaction to Likud Demands Reviewed

TA0603063690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Mar 90

[By Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus]

[Text] The Palestinians' positions were expressed yesterday and last night quite clearly and in writing in two documents: the first, the manifesto signed by the 30 notables from the territories, as we reported yesterday; and the second is a new leaflet issued by the Unified National Command of the Uprising published last night. As far as its political part is concerned, leaflet No. 53 includes no new positions. Hence, perhaps, its significance. In light of what the PLO terms the acrobatic maneuvers by the Israeli Government, the PLO is sticking to firm, stable positions stemming from its very substance and struggle. So the PLO's positions as expressed in the latest leaflet—and actually also in yesterday's petition—are as follows:

The PLO reiterates it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, and that it has exclusive rights over composing the delegation for the dialogue with Israel and announcing it. Second, the delegation will include representatives from the territories and outside them. Yesterday's manifesto, too, stated explicitly that East Jerusalem representatives also will participate.

The agenda, reiterates the PLO, must be open and ultimately lead to an international conference under UN auspices with the participation of all the parties engaged in the conflict, based on parity.

Regarding the people manning the institutions, says the PLO in its leaflet, the lists currently being disseminated in the territories were intended merely to create the impression there is Palestinian agreement with the U.S.-Western-Alignment position, and that the only impediment at the moment is the Likud. These lists, claims the PLO, were intended only to sow confusion and divert the locals' attention from the intifadah. Yesterday's manifesto also says no personality from the territories will participate in a delegation unless it is composed by the PLO.

Knesset Reactions to Likud Resolution Reported

TA0603071590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Here are reactions from the Knesset, as reported by our correspondent Yo'el Nir: Hayim Ramon, the Alignment Faction chairman, says the import of the decision adopted by the Likud ministers is a negative response to the questions presented by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, coupled with an attempt to conceal that response by making groundless accusations against the Alignment. Hayim Ramon demands his party reject the Likud's terms out of hand and demand an immediate decision at tomorrow's Inner Cabinet session.

Hanan Porat, the chairman of the National Religious Party [NRP] in the Knesset, on the other hand, welcomed the decision, which he claims is in synch with the NRP's positions. We believe the Alignment cannot ignore the main issues on the agenda, chiefly the question of whether or not to include Jerusalem in the negotiations for the autonomy. We will firmly stand by the prime minister, if he indeed stands firm on his own positions, says Hanan Porat.

Alignment 'Can Continue' in Coalition With Likud

TA0603094190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Minister Mordekhay Gur believes that despite the Likud ministers' decision, the Alignment can continue in the same government as the Likud. He nonetheless abhors and rejects the Likud's demands of the Alignment. Minister Gur said the Alignment ministers should continue their dialogue with the Likud and not lead to the dissolution of the coalition.'

The Alignment ministers will convene this afternoon to discuss the political developments. Tomorrow the Likud Knesset faction will hear a report from the prime minister on the issue. For the moment it is unclear whether the Inner Cabinet will discuss the issue tomorrow.

Likud Decision Prompts No-Confidence Motion

TA0603094590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Shinuy has submitted a motion of no-confidence in the government against the backdrop of the Likud ministers' resolution which, Shinuy believes, leads to the annihilation of the peace initiative. The above was reported by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen.

Everyone understands, says Shinuy, that no Palestinian delegation would be able to operate without obtaining the PLO's consent, just as everyone realizes the people of Israel—from the entire political spectrum—never question Jerusalem's indivisibility.

PLO Said Agreeable to 'Most Recent' Proposals

TA0603095990 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Mar 90 p 1

[By Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Excerpt] Palestinian sources in Cairo yesterday divulged further details of James Baker's most recent proposals related to the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo. The sources contended the PLO has accepted these proposals, which include the following points:

—On the eve of the negotiations, the Palestinian delegation will meet with 'Arafat in Cairo to receive his instructions.
—The Palestinian delegation's right to consult with any Arab element whatsoever (namely, the PLO) in the course of the negotiations is acknowledged.
—The delegation will include two deportees, who will be allowed to return to the territories, and representatives from East Jerusalem owning an apartment or land in the territories.
—The agenda of the dialogue will deal with modalities of elections in the territories and with the determination of stages for future political negotiations toward the achievement of a permanent arrangement. [passage omitted]

Shamir's Office: U.S. 'Unaware of Reality'

TA0603105890 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Mar 90 pp A1, 2

[By Ran Dagoni and Ilan Bakhar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Prime Minister's Office yesterday reacted sharply to the U.S. President's comments on Jerusalem. The bureau's communique stated: "We will settle whoever we want in Jerusalem; we will settle as many people as we want in Jerusalem. The United States simply is unaware of the reality here. Jerusalem is a united, indivisible city. It has no settlements. We will continue to build it and settle it regardless of what the whole world may say about it, or what our greatest friend may have to comment. As far as Jerusalem is concerned, there is a general consensus in Israel," noted the Prime Minister's Office. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew carries a front-page report by Ilan Kfir and U.S. correspondent Doron Me'iri, noting that "in the past few months, 1,687 settlers have reached Jerusalem, 75 percent of whom were settled in the city's suburbs."]

Shamir Emphasizes Unity, Rejects Ultimatum

TA0603112890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he needs no ultimatum from the Alignment regarding the peace process, adding that differences of opinion will not be resolved by ultimatums. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that in reply to questions by ORT [Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training] schoolchildren in Elat, the prime minister said he believes the Israeli delegation must be united in negotiations and speak in one voice.

The Likud Knesset faction welcomed the Likud ministers' resolution. In a communique, the faction said the fact the United States has been ignoring the PLO's terrorism and its position about Jerusalem makes it imperative a joint position be reached between the two large parties before a dialogue begins with the Arabs of the territories.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports Knesset Member Binyamin Begin has submitted a motion to the Knesset's agenda to discuss the U.S. position and that of the Labor Party toward the PLO.

Immigration Minister: 100,000 Expected in 1990

TA0503154290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] We should expect 100,000 immigrants from the Soviet Union this year, and the publication of immigration figures such as 230,000 is merely harmful, besides being imprecise. This was stated by Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz, who returned from the United States today. The publication of figures regarding the scope of aliyah have created unnecessary pressures on the Arab countries, said the minister. He therefore supports the decision to impose censorship on the number of immigrants.

EC Aid to Territories Will Top $6 Million

TA0603071490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The EC intends to increase aid to the residents of the territories. This year, welfare, educational, and economic development projects in the territories will be allotted more than $6 million. In two years, the EC will double that sum to more than $13 million.

Indian Parliamentarian Continues Visit

Discusses Peace With Badran

JN0403154490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mudar Badran, discussed at his office today with the speaker of the Indian House of Representatives and his accompanying delegation ways of promoting trade and economic cooperation between Jordan and India. House of Representatives Speaker Sulayman 'Arar attended the meeting. Discussions also dealt with the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine and the increased tension and instability such emigration will cause, particularly in the occupied Arab territories and in the Middle East region in general. Emphasis was placed on Arab endeavors to reach a state of peace and stability in the region, as well as a just and comprehensive solution for the Palestinian problem.

During the meeting Prime Minister Badran extended an invitation to the Indian prime minister to visit Jordan. The meeting was attended by a number of deputies and the Indian ambassador in Amman.

Received by Prince Hasan

JN0503165690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Mr. Ravi Ray, speaker of the Indian Lower House of Parliament, at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning. He also received members of his delegation, who represent various Indian parties. His highness welcomed the visiting delegation and praised the cooperation and friendly relations between the two countries.

His highness, the regent, also touched on issues of mutual interest to Third World countries and noted the importance to these countries of exchanging information and expertise to bolster international relations in a comprehensive manner in the face of current international economic groupings.

His highness also discussed with the Indian delegation the subject of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, pointing out that the principal question lies in the illegitimacy and inadmissibility of Israeli settlement in the occupied Arab territories. His highness, the regent, then stressed the importance of promoting relations and continuing dialogue between the Jordanian and Indian Parliaments.

The speaker of the Indian Lower House of Parliament thanked His Highness Prince Hasan for the warm reception accorded to the delegation in Jordan. He also stressed the close relations between the two friendly countries. He then expressed his complete understanding of the problem of Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories in terms of the threat it poses to the peace process in the region.

The meeting was attended by the House of Representatives speaker, House members, and the Indian ambassador in Amman.

Meets With Tahir al-Masri

JN0503164890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Amman, 5 Mar (PETRA)—Tahir al-Masri, chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee, has lauded India's Arab policies. He singled out its stand on the Palestinian cause and its preeminent role in the Nonaligned Movement. Speaking to a visiting Indian parliamentary delegation led by Ravi Ray, speaker of the Lower House, Al-Masri detailed Israeli repressive measures and terror tactics against Palestinians waging the intifadah in occupied Arab territory. He stressed the need for strengthening ties with India, especially trade and economic ties.

For his part, the Indian speaker also stressed the need for strengthening bilateral relations and reiterated his country's support for various Arab causes and India's traditional support for the Palestinian cause. Sulayman 'Arar, speaker of the House of Representatives, was present at the meeting.

Indian Envoy Assesses Talks

JN0503111490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Mar 90 p 1

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—India Sunday voiced its total support for Jordan's view that the massive influx of Soviet Jewish emigres to Israel poses gave threats to security and stability in the Middle East in addition to serious dangers for the Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Indian position was affirmed during a series of meetings a visiting Indian parliamentry delegation held here with His Majesty King Husayn and senior government leaders, including Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

According to the Indian ambassador to Jordan who attended the talks, the delegation, headed by India's Lower House (Lok Sabha) speaker Ravi Ray, reiterated New Delhi's shared view with Jordan that no peace could be achieved in the Middle East without a just settlement which guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Speaker Ray also reassured his Jordanian hosts that the change in government in New Delhi after the last general elections did not mean any shift or adverse impact on the "traditionally strong links between India and Jordan," Ambassador Gajendra Singh said.

The King was scheduled to receive the delegation Monday but the audience was brought forward to adjust to his departure Monday morning on visits to France and Britain.

In Sunday's meeting, the King paid tribute to relations with India and emphasised the need to further enhancing economic cooperation, the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, reported.

Prime Minister Badran and the delegation, which includes five members of the two houses of the Indian parliment representing almost all leading parties, reviewed Indo-Jordanian trade and economic cooperation and expressed hope that several pending projects would be implemented soon to further boost bilateral ties, according to Singh. Badran extended an invitation to Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh to visit Jordan.

On the political front, Badran and Ray discussed the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and agreed that it posed a grave danger to peace and stability in the Middle East, PETRA said. They viewed the Soviet Jewish influx as being bound to heighten tension and will be an element of instability in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, PETRA said.

In his meeting with the Indian team, Senate Speaker al-Lawzi discussed Indo-Jordanian ties in various fields and also paid tribute to India's role in supporting liberation movements and the just cause of the Palestinians. Al-Lawzi explained Jordan's position towards Arab-Israeli peace efforts and reiterated the Arab demand for the implementation of the pertinent United Nations Security Council resolutions on the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian problem.

Ray reaffirmed India's support for Arab and Palestinian causes and also expressed New Delhi's firm desire to maintain and further strengthen ties with Jordan, PETRA said.

The same themes were also discussed with the Indian delegation by Foreign Minister al-Qasim in 75-minute meeting, Ambassador Singh said. Al-Qasim briefly reviewed the evolution of the Middle East conflict and explained Jordan's position, he said.

The Jordanian side explained its "anxieties and fears over the Soviet Jewish influx," which not only threatens to undermine ongoing peace efforts but also presents a grave danger to the Arab region, the ambassador said.

For its part, the Indian side voiced its full support for the Jordanian position" and said that New Delhi shared the "Jordanian perceptions of the Arab-Israeli conflict," according to the ambassador.

India's reaffirmation of its position on the immigration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel and Arab and Palestinian fears that the bulk of them would be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip comes at a time when Arab states are trying to mobilise international efforts to counter the threats.

Ray held talks with his Jordanian counterpart and host, Lower House Speaker Sulayman 'Arar, Saturday, and called for a Middle East peace settlement based on recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He further elaborated on the theme in a speech delivered at a banquet hosted by 'Arar Sunday night.

He reiterated India's support for an international peace conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices with the participation of all parties involved in the Arab-israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Arab unity, he said, was "vital for the struggle to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

Recalling that India has always been a supporter of Arab and Palestinian causes, he said: "There can be no peace without justice. The illegal occupation of Arab territories must be (ended). The Palestinians have an inalienable right to self-determination. They have a right to their homeland. These rights should be recognised."

In his meetings here, Ray also raised the issue of the Indo-Pakistani dispute over Kashmir and said New Delhi was keen to "maintain good neighbourly relations on the basis of past accords and agreements," according to Ambassador Singh.

The delegation arrived here Saturday and will leave Wednesday.

King Husayn Arrives in Paris for Talks

WA0603155090

For reportage on the visit by King Husayn to Paris, including reports on his talks with President Francois Mitterrand and senior French officials, see the France section of the 6 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Talks Held on Forming Authority in Eastern Area

NC0503094190 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] It has been reported that the direct negotiations between 'Awn and Ja'ja' have not produced any important results, especially with regard to the formation of a government which 'Awn is seeking to establish as a way of incorporating the Lebanese Forces into a political framework under his chairmanship.

The report confirms that political and spiritual figures in the eastern area continue to express reservations about expanding the military government lest this expansion assume a partitionist character. These parties prefer the establishment of a national authority in accordance with the six-point statement.

It is also reported that mediators are trying to persuade 'Awn to abandon the idea of establishing a government. The mediators are holding consultations with leaders representing key forces in the eastern area on the formation of a 12-member authority to include Michel 'Awn, Samir Ja'ja', Shakir Abu-Sulayman, Bulus Nu'man, Dany Sham'un, 'Isam Abu-Jamrah, Edgar Ma'luf, Roger Dib, and George 'Udwan. It was learned that former President Charles Hilu and former Ambassador Faruq Abu-al-Lam' refused to participate in this authority.

Meanwhile, it was reiterated that efforts to persuade former ministers, particularly Catholics and Greek Orthodox, to participate in this authority have been to no avail.

Vatican Warns of Syrian Moves if Clashes Continue

NC0503061790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] It has been reiterated that the Vatican has sent Monsignor (Alberto Suzi) to hold talks with 'Awn and Ja'ja' in order to achieve a firm settlement. A source stated that (Suzi's) message to 'Awn and Ja'ja' includes a warning that the Vatican would not be able to prevent Syrian military intervention in the Christian areas if the clashes continued, especially if such intervention were requested by President al-Hirawi.

Nasirite Groups Attack Israeli Positions in South

NC0503103890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] On the 15th anniversary of the martyrdom of struggler Ma'ruf Sa'd, groups of the Nasirite Popular Organization attacked three basic positions of the Zionist enemy and his agents in the area between Anan and Kafr Falus hospital at dawn today. In the attack, which involved the use of rockets, automatic weapons, and hand grenades, a number of Israelis and Lahd militiamen were killed or injured and a military vehicle was destroyed at the Kafr Falus hospital. The bunkers at the three positions were also destroyed. The groups returned safely to base.

Immediately afterward, the enemy shelled the forward positions of the Popular Army for two hours. Popular Army artillery returned fire to silence the enemy guns.

Birri Comments on Eastern Area Fighting, Hizballah

NC0103162790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] In an interview with AL-'AWASIF magazine to be published tomorrow, Minister Nabih Birri described the situation in the eastern area as a fight between two mafias. He also described the U.S. and French presidents' messages to President al-Hirawi as exercises in rhetoric. He called on the state to launch a military recruitment campaign and to implement the security plan in West Beirut, which has become a matter of greater urgency in view the events in the eastern area.

Birri said that the cabinet has decided to reactivate the security plan and to put it on the agenda. He said that Amal Movement calls on the legitimate government to send the Lebanese Army to the south and establish its authority there, adding that Amal has placed its barracks and weapons at the government's disposal.

Minister Birri said that the convening of an Arab summit is possible. He asked: Why must we wait for others? Why do we not call for a summit ourselves? He said: Were I in Syria's shoes, I would not intervene in the eastern area even if I were asked to do so. He expressed his conviction that Syrian intervention now could be troublesome for it and not in the interests of Lebanon.

Minister Birri said that Hizballah has fallen and is now trying to resurrect itself through the use of force. He said that Hizballah is like 'Awn and Ja'ja' in working against Lebanon's unity and building statelets. He said that the events in Iqlim al-Tuffah have not ended and that Hizballah is making a new attempt to penetrate the south. Minister Birri added: We are in the process of establishing a real united national leadership.

Al-Hirawi Views E. Beirut Situation, Visits

NC0203165090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today reiterated that if murder and destruction continue in the eastern area, the legitimate authority will use its rights in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement. He disclosed that he will make two short visits to Saudi Arabia and Algeria, adding that King Fahd has promised to provide assistance to Lebanon. He added: Lebanon needs to develop and it cannot flourish using its own resources; King Fahd has made a promise in this respect.

President al-Hirawi referred to the need to provide the Army with necessary supplies and said: Our intention

behind this is not to prepare the Army for a war against the others as some people claim. We just want to prepare the Army so it can enable the government and state to extend their sovereignty throughout Lebanon. We also want the Army prepared to enable the government and state to implement the al-Ta'if accord, as clearly stipulated in the accord.

He referred to the current predicament and crisis in East Beirut, the accompanying murders, and the destruction of property, official institutions, and infrastructures which are vital to the state. He added that Lebanon and its people are one thing. Therefore the institutions in the eastern area concern all the Lebanese, particularly the current regime, which took it upon itself to unify Lebanon.

He added: I regret having to make a very short trip, but I will not allow myself to leave Lebanon during the current situation in the eastern area. This is part of our responsibility and we must be where we should be to monitor the situation. We are doing our best, and we hope we will be able to end the catastrophe.

Asked about how interference in Lebanese affairs and in the eastern areas affects the regime's decisionmaking, President al-Hirawi said: Let me say firmly that any decision the government makes is an intra-Lebanese decision. We listen to everybody, but in the end we make our own decision without seeking anyone's help. He added: Regardless of what might be said about the various parties, we use diplomacy, and the final decision rests with the Lebanese Government.

Regarding the true French position toward the legitimate government and what the French ambassador has said to him in this respect, President al-Hirawi said: I have not touched on this subject yet because this is a Lebanese affair. We talked about what I said regarding the French position and the criticism I made through the Voice of the Mountain Radio against some French parties for their stands. These parties include the French deputies who visited the eastern area in support of the former authority and the power usurpers, some radios, and some newspapers. We respect the freedom and democracy in France, but we have to voice some criticism. As for the official French stand, he added: All the messages we received so far reiterated support for the legitimate government and for the al-Ta'if agreement. I believe this position still stands, at least until the opposite is proved.

According to exclusive reports to our radio, President al-Hirawi will leave Beirut on Sunday for Saudi Arabia, accompanied by Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul. He will meet with King Fahd on Monday. The delegation will then leave for Algiers to meet Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The president's visit to Morocco has been postponed because of King Hassan II's engagements in the national day celebrations.

Algeria's Bendjedid Sends Message to Al-Hirawi

NC0103131490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Algerian ambassador to Lebanon today conveyed a message to President Ilyas al-Hirawi from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. After the meeting, the ambassador affirmed that his country supports everything which legitimacy requests and noted that President al-Hirawi's visit to Algeria will take place very soon. [passage omitted] The text of the Algerian president's message follows:

I have received with utmost interest your letter dated 6 February 1990 concerning the fraternal Lebanese people's tragic situation. This situation is aggravating and further deteriorating in the eastern and northern areas of the capital as a result of the fierce fighting and indiscriminate shelling of the populated neighborhoods by the rebels against the legitimate authority.

We express our profound sorrow for what is happening and strongly condemn these crazy practices and this fighting which will only cause further destruction, shed the blood of innocent people, lengthen the list of the victims of terrorism and crime, and increase the pain and suffering of the citizens. We affirm to you that Algeria, as always, will stand with all available means on Lebanon's side in order to regain its health and consolidate its unity of land and people.

In view of this serious situation, I would like to inform Your Excellency that Algeria, which has always stood by the legitimate authority in Lebanon, has decided to make a financial contribution to the fraternal Lebanese people out of its interest in strengthening the legitimate government of Lebanon to enable it to impose its sovereignty over all its national soil. Your forthcoming visit to your second homeland, Algeria, will provide a good opportunity for us to hold consultations, coordinate our joint efforts on the situation in Lebanon, and discuss all means of support and assistance to the Lebanese people and government. Please accept my respect and appreciation.

[Signed] Chadli Bendjedid, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

National Progressive Front Said To Expand

PM0503152690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Mar 90 p 2

[Zaki Shihab report: "Syrian Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Political Arena To Witness Expansion of National Front and Addition of New Parties"]

[Excerpt] London—According to informed Syrian sources, the next few weeks will witness an expansion of the National Progressive Front [NPF]. An Islamic party—to be formed by a moderate group—and another political party will join the NPF.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the ruling Ba'th Party's general congress, scheduled for April, will pass a number of resolutions to reactivate the party's work and reaffirm policies adopted by previous congresses.

The sources revealed that one resolution being drafted will urge that organizations belonging to the NPF be permitted to open their own political offices in the various governorates. They also said that the congress will consider granting a greater role to the private sector and the media. [passage omitted]

New 'Transformation Movement' Examined

JN0503090890 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 1 Mar 90 p 20

[Text] Damascus (QNA)—The signs of a new internal political phase have begun to crystallize in Syria in light of several factors emanating from the general developments which have taken place on the level of the ruling party and the National Progressive Front, as well as on the level of the constitutional and legislative institutions. Last Monday [26 February] marked the end of the fourth legislative term of the People's Assembly and the beginning of preparations to elect a new Assembly. Under the Syrian constitution, Assembly elections should take place within 90 days from the date of proroguing the last Assembly. Therefore, the fifth term of the Assembly should begin some time in May.

The last Assembly elections, which were held in 1986, were won by the parties unified under the Progressive National Front as well as the representatives of the ruling Ba'th Party. Half the assembly seats, which number 196, are allocated to representatives of the workers and peasants while the remaining seats are contested by the political parties, independents, and others.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY [QNA] correspondent in Damascus says that in light of the new political trend the next Assembly elections in Syria will witness democratic rivalry between the various political parties and forces, which was what Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed during the banquet he hosted in honor of the members of the last People's Assembly.

President al-Asad affirmed the need for the Assembly to play a more effective role on the level of public control and general guidance.

The last Assembly questioned and censured several ministers in the previous government headed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, including Supply Minister Riyad al-Haj Khalil, Industry Minister 'Ali al-Tarabulsi, and Agriculture Minister Dr. Mahmud al-Kurdi.

The Assembly interfered several times in government affairs and formed committees to investigate cases of corruption and bribery. The committees also submitted proposals amending the government's development plans.

Observers here have noticed that preparations are already underway for the election campaign in Syria. These preparations have coincided with other preparations to hold Ba'th Party elections prior to convening the party's Ninth Congress, which has the power to carry out any reforms.

Although the final form of these elections has not yet been decided officially, several sources have underlined their significance in the coming transformation movement [harakat al-taghyir] in Syria.

These sources expect the party elections to take place in the next two months and the party's general congress to be held in April at the latest.

It is customary in Syria to form a new government at the conclusion of the party congress, which is what observers in Damascus expect. They are unanimous that the next government will be an entirely new and expanded one.

The last congress of the ruling Ba'th Party in Syria convened in 1985, when the party approved a new organizational formula by establishing a central committee for the party comprising 125 members, in addition to electing a regional command comprising 22 members.

The ruling Ba'th Party's bases in Syria are pinning great hopes on the next congress because it will provide them with a real opportunity to assess the work of the previous stage and create an atmosphere of freedom and democracy inside the ranks of the party and on the level of its leadership and institutions.

The QNA correspondent in Damascus says there is a third indicator that a new political stage is about to begin in Syria. This is clear in the intensive preparations underway for the convocation of a general congress of the National Progressive Front's parties. This congress will see to it that the front's charter is amended in order to give way to new parties and political forces to join the front.

The QNA correspondent also learned through the front's quarters that the parties affiliated with the front—the Syrian Communist Party, the Arab Socialist Union Party, the Arab Socialist Party, and the Nasirist Unionist

Party—greatly hope this congress will give the front a more effective role and give its parties wider political authorities so as to reach, in effect, integral participation in drawing up plans and general programs, and in taking decisions of a national and pan-Arab character which are related to political life.

The Syrian Government has recently permitted two new parties to operate in public. These are the Nasirite Democratic Arab Party [al-hizb al-'arabi al-dimuqrati al-nasiri], led by Muhammad al-Sufi, a former defense minister, and another religious party led by Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Buti, a professor at the al-Shari'a faculty in Damascus University. This came within the framework of a national step aimed at expanding the sphere of the front's activities by polarizing new parties.

So, through these three factors—the election of a People's Assembly, party elections, and the expanded congress which will be convened by the National Progressive Front's parties, political life in Syria seems, indeed, to be heading toward important developments that might effect an across-the-board change in some areas.

According to the QNA correspondent's estimations, such developments are not isolated from what is taking place in the region. They are also related to what is happening on the world front where changes are affecting all fields including the balances of power, relations among countries, in addition to all public manifestations of life, which are heading strongly toward democracy.

The QNA correspondent particularly noted the transformation which has taken place in Syria's stands on many important Arab issues, among which are the solution in Lebanon, restoration of diplomatic relations with Egypt, the opening of a new page for approximation of viewpoints with the PLO. He also asserted that the political leadership in Syria is now concerned with spreading a general atmosphere of democracy and freedom. This has been demonstrated recently by limiting the use of martial laws, reconsidering the economic security courts, highlighting the supremacy of the law, proceeding with the campaign to fight administrative corruption in all its forms, and giving broader range to economic openness.

Qaddah on 'Defense Capabilities', Arab Solidarity

JN0603113690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Hamah—Within the framework of Syria's celebrations of the 27th anniversary of the glorious 8 March revolution, a mammoth popular celebration took place in the Hamah Governorate today to mark the unveiling of a statue of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, in expression of the masses' love and loyalty to the leader of their march toward victory and liberation.

Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the party, unveiled the statue amid the applause of the masses who came from all parts of the governorate to celebrate this occasion and to express their true loyalty to struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party. [passage omitted]

The comrade assistant regional secretary gave a speech on this occasion. At the outset, he conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings and great appreciation for our people's masses in Hamah, the city of civilization and great deeds. He said: Our lofty people are the ones who have waged brilliant struggle in all fields. They struggled against injustice and exploitation, confronted colonialism and occupation, faced tyranny and separation, struggled and offered sacrifices in the March revolution's battles, and valiantly confronted the conspiracies of the agent and criminal Brotherhood gang. They have continued to march forward on the road of the triumphant revolution under President Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of the revolution and the custodian of the nation's struggle, in entrenched national unity and splendid cohesion among the people and their leader. [passage omitted]

He added: Throughout 27 years, the March revolution—the March of bountiful offerings—has been escalating, growing, laying the foundations of entrenched achievements and lofty edifices, and building the new society based on comprehensive development. He said: Thus, the edifices and bases of modern Syria became firmly entrenched, and their manifestations became evident in all fields to enhance our heroic Armed Forces' defense capabilities—the fence of the homeland and the shield of the nation—to entrench popular democracy, and to reinforce the role of the constitutional institutions, the National Progressive Front, and comprehensive economic and social development. [passage omitted]

Comrade Qaddah spoke about Arab solidarity, he said: Arab solidarity is the minimum we seek to achieve on the basis of mobilizing Arab potential and pan-Arab resources in confrontation of the Zionist enemy. We strongly seek to put joint Arab action within the framework of solidarity. [passage omitted]

TISHRIN Praises Lebanese President's Arab Tour

JN0503064890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Mar 90

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN writes on the Lebanese crisis, the efforts made by the legitimate Lebanese Government under Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and the Lebanese president's tour. TISHRIN says: President al-Hirawi's tour of Arab countries is an assertion of the importance of an effective Arab role to find a settlement of the bitter internal dispute in the sisterly country and the importance of this role with regard to the Lebanese brothers, particularly since death and destruction are prevailing in East Beirut in a battle in which 'Awn's cliques and Ja'ja' militias have reached the point of no return.

In light of the loud appeals from the kidnapped part of Beirut, calling on the legitimate government to intervene to save them from certain death and destruction, the results of President al-Hirawi's tour are based on the following: First, effective Arab support to spread the legitimate government's authority over the kidnapped part of Beirut; second, giving financial, economic, and military support to the legitimate government; and third, providing all means of strength and impregnability to the government of national reconciliation which is a guarantee to the Lebanese people inasmuch as it is a guarantee to the Arabs in the face of the divisionists associated with the Israeli designs.

TISHRIN affirms that the Lebanese crisis must be finally settled under the rule of President al-Hirawi. And this calls for ending the abnormal situation that obstructs Lebanese reconciliation and fraternal coexistence, particularly since the international community clearly announced its support for the legitimate government and its trends aimed at restoring the country's unity.

TISHRIN highlights the importance of President al-Hirawi and the importance of the supporting Arab stand on which the brothers in Lebanon pinned great hopes. The paper says: If Arab support is strong and decisive the international support will increase, the last cards of divisionists and isolationists will fall, and the united Lebanon—the territory, people, and institutions—will triumph.

Special Courts for Civil Servants Established

JN0403172690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 4 Mar (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad today issued a law providing for the establishment of behavioral courts to look into cases involving the conduct of workers governed by the Basic Law of Government Employees. According to the law, referrals to the court will be made by the authority that exercises the right to appointment—and by the decision of the prime minister for employees appointed by special decrees—by the head of the central control and inspection organization, and by the general prosecution.

Afghanistan

Defense Minister Tanay Leads Coup Attempt

Wanted 'Dead or Alive'

BK0603141790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 6 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah claimed Tuesday [6 March] that his Defence Minister, General Shahnawaz Tanay had attempted to overthrow him and called on the army and the people to capture the general "dead or alive."

Western diplomats here and Soviet Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov in Moscow, citing reports from Kabul, said fierce fighting was going on in the Afghan capital, and it was impossible to tell if the government had the situation under control.

In a special broadcast by Radio Kabul monitored here, Mr. Najibullah said that Gen. Tanay was working in collaboration with mujahidin resistance leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar, chief of the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami party. "Shahnawaz Tanay has rebelled and is in hiding. I appeal to citizens and soldiers to capture him dead or alive and take him back to the Defence Ministry," Mr. Najibullah said in a message read by an announcer. The radio, which broke into its normal programmes to broadcast the message, followed it with patriotic songs.

An hour later another identical message was broadcast, attributed to "new Defence Minister" Muhammed Aslam Watanjar, previously minister of the interior.

The diplomats, quoting reliable Western sources in the Afghan capital, said there had been aerial bombing, artillery fire and shooting in the streets. Tanks had been deployed around the Soviet embassy, they said. "It seems from all the evidence to be an attempted coup", said one who asked not to be identified.

Shooting was reported in various parts of the city and particularly around the presidential palace. Eyewitnesses reported anti-aircraft weapons in use.

In Moscow TASS news agency, in a dispatch from its Kabul correspondent citing eyewitnesses, said unidentified aircraft had bombed the presidential palace and been met with anti-aircraft fire. Heavy firing was also reported from the vicinity of the international airport and around the Defence Ministry, TASS said.

The correspondent of the Czechoslovak news agency CTK said one bomb had been dropped near the presidential palace. The situation was said to be confused, with army units fighting "on both sides." CTK said all public telephone and telex links had been cut and only foreign embassies could send messages.

Mr. Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said, "there is shooting in the streets" of the Afghan capital. "The situation is confused, and there is fighting going on." He would give no more details.

The Soviet Union, which invaded Afghanistan in December 1979 to shore up the communist government, withdrew last year but continued to back Mr. Najibullah against the Western-backed mujahidin.

Mr. Najibullah, who has led Afghanistan since May 1986, was confronted last December with serious unrest in the armed forces. The trial of 124 people alleged to have plotted against the government opened in Kabul Monday.

Earlier reports from Kabul attributed explosions in the city to the regular mujahidin rocket attacks. An AFP correspondent filing from the Kabul Hotel near the presidential palace at two p.m. (0930 GMT) reported three rockets had fallen in the vicinity, then added just before being cut off that he had heard eight more explosions. "It is madness here, complete madness.... Eyewitnesses saying at least 10 killed, this hotel looks like it will fall apart," he said.

Gen. Tanay, a member of the Khalq faction of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) which is dominant in the Armed Forces, openly opposed Mr. Najibullah, of the Parcham faction, following December's arrests. The 124 detained included senior military officers and PDPA members.

When the plot was reported, authorities accused Mr. Hekmatyar of being behind unrest in the army, which he denied.

Western diplomats here said at the time the incident was the result of one more conflict between the two factions in the party.

High Command Statement

LD0603124290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1224 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Announcement by the High Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], dated 6 March:

The high command of the Armed Forces of the RA informs all our compatriots that Shahnawaz Tanay, the head of the treacherous extremist, adventurist, and power-seeking group, has escaped from his hideout as a result of decisive and shattering operations by the units of the Armed Forces of the RA. All units and companies of the Armed Forces of the RA and all compatriots are advised to take Tanay dead or alive, this treacherous element to the people and the homeland and bring him to the headquarters of the High Command of the Armed Forces of the RA. All the noble people of Afghanistan are expected to spare no cooperation in capturing Shahnawaz Tanay, this agent of intrigue and conspiracy of the enemies and outsiders of Afghanistan, with the units and companies of the Armed Forces of the RA.

[Signed] Najibullah, the President of Afghanistan and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan

Supreme Council: Coup 'Crushed'

LD0603132990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1230 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] You hear our voice from Radio Afghanistan, Kabul. In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Announcement by the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland:

The Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland informs all our compatriots that in these difficult and critical conditions in the life of the people of Afghanistan, which necessitates more than ever the unity of all Afghans toward maintaining national unity to bring about and establish nationwide peace, a handful of treacherous extremist, adventurist, and power-seeking elements, headed by Shahnawaz Tanay, the former minister of defense, engaged in a conspiracy against the high national interests of the country, people, and policy of national reconciliation, and despite the great efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan's [RA] leadership, did not refrain from carrying forward their treacherous measures and activities, and in collusion with the known Pakistani-linked extremist group of Golbuddin, embarked on an armed attack against civilian and state targets.

The Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland assures all the compatriots that this treacherous attempt against Afghanistan and national reconciliation has been quickly repelled, neutralized, and crushed bravely and courageously by all units and companies of the Armed Forces of the RA stationed in Kabul, and the situation is under control.

The Supreme Defense Council of the homeland thanks all compatriots, in particular the heroic Armed Forces of the country, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan members, and their political allies, and expresses gratitude to Kabul citizens who, with complete awareness, have dealt with the situation and taken part in cursing this treacherous attempt.

Compatriots, troops, officers, and generals of the Armed Forces of the RA: Wherever you are and under whatever conditions, maintain your positions with wisdom and vigilance, realize the present situation of your beloved homeland, and with all your power and potential give a crushing and decisive response to the conspiracies of the enemies of the homeland and the people. Do not let beloved Afghanistan be transformed into a battlefield of another bloody war between the Afghans as a result of foreign conspiracies. Protect your Afghan and Islamic unity as the pupil of your eyes and identify and disarm treacherous and sold-out elements. Success comes from God.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan and Chairman of the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland

Conspirators Urged To Surrender

LD0603141490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1230 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Announcement by the High Command of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] Armed Forces 6 March 1990:

Herewith it is announced to those individuals who have been inadvertently drawn to the futile and anti-national interests of the conspiracy, that now, when due to the brave courageous sons of Afghanistan, these treacherous conspirators against the national interests of the people of Afghanistan, led by Shahnawaz Tanay—a tool in the hands of the historical enemies of our homeland—have failed, we announce that if you surrender as soon as possible to the closest units of the Armed Forces of the RA, your rights to life and property will be inviolate and the [words indistinct] guarantees them.

[Signed] The High Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan

Armed Forces HQ Says Coup 'Crushed'

LD0603162490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1330 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The Supreme Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] states:

We herewith inform all the noble patriots of the country that as a result of heroism and bravery by the units and companies of the Armed Forces, a number of those people who were given instructions and organized themselves against the national interest of the people of Afghanistan by Shahnawaz Tanay, this treacherous element, were crushed. Another number of them have surrendered to the units and companies of the Armed Forces in light of the previous statement by the Supreme Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the RA.

Watanjar Seeks Tanay's Capture

LD0603150690 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Order of Lieutenant General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA]:

Dear compatriots, soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and generals of the Armed Forces of the RA, the Supreme Council of the Defense of Homeland of the RA, has today entrusted me with the duty and responsibility of the leadership of the Defense Ministry of the RA under the leadership of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the RA

Armed Forces. Therefore, I instruct all the RA Armed Forces personnel, including all its rank and file, the airmen, tank men, defense brigades of air and artillery, and the infantry forces to defend their positions with vigilance and awareness and use all their efforts to try to discover and seize dead or alive, Shahnawaz Tanay, this treacherous element attached to the enemy of Afghanistan, who has fled its previous hideout; and to crush any type of resistance by his treacherous group or those who are deceived.

Defense of honor, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of our beloved country Afghanistan, are the inevitable duties of all the patriots and especially all the personnel of the air and air defense forces, tank men, artillery forces, infantry forces, and other sections of the RA Armed Forces. Success comes from God.

[Signed], Lt. Gen. Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, Defense Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan

Najibullah Issues Decree on New Ministers

LD0603150790 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. We inform our dear compatriots that the foiled conspiracy by Shahnawaz Tanay after the failed coup d'etat has fled to an unknown destination. Lieutenant General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar has been appointed defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Raz Mohammad Paktin minister of interior. They have taken up their duties. All the personnel of army and the Ministry of the Defense are duty bound to obey them without question.

Dear compatriots, the situation is tranquil all over the country. The anti-state and popular plot has been foiled. We ask the brave people of the country to consider the interest of the homeland with vigilance and high Afghani bravery. Peace will definitely overcome the war.

[Signed] Najibullah, President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan

Provincial Councils Assure Loyalty, Control

LD0603151390 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. The Supreme Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] informs the compatriots and personnel of the heroic Armed Forces of Afghanistan that messages of appreciation have arrived addressed to the Supreme Headquarters of the High Command of the Armed Forces of the RA from the garrisons of the units and companies of the Armed Forces of the RA stationed in Kabul from the defense councils of the provinces of Qandahar, Paktia, Nangarhar, Herat, Balkh, Jowzjan, Faryab, Konduz, Baghlan, Badakhshan, Laghman, Khowst Major District, Zabol, and other provinces.

In these messages, assurance has been given about the full control of the Armed Forces of the RA over their relevant regions. Readiness has been expressed that under the command and leadership of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the RA, that they will carry out their national and patriotic duties in defense of national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of Afghanistan and ensuring peace in the country, with full loyalty and vigilance, and will foil and crush any type of plot by the treacherous elements attached to the enemy of Afghanistan with firmness and decisiveness. Success comes from God.

Kabul Garrison Announces Curfew Until 7 Mar

LD0603162790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Announcement by Kabul City Garrison that restrictions on movement during the night as from 1900 [1530 GMT] are enforced. All Kabul citizens should pay attention to the restrictions on movements over the night.

Hekmatyar Supports Coup Against 'Atheist Regime'

BK0603162990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 6 (AFP)—Afghan rebel leader Gölbuddin Hekmatyar refused to confirm or deny allegations that he was involved in Tuesday's coup attempt in Kabul against President Najibullah.

"We support whatever action is against the atheist regime" of Mr. Najibullah, the fundamentalist mujahidin leader told a hastily called press conference here after news of fierce fighting in the Afghan capital. "We support the action of Army officers against the regime."

In a message broadcast on Radio Kabul monitored here Mr. Najibullah said his Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanay was behind the coup in association with Mr. Hekmatyar, chief of the rebel Hezb-e Eslami group. The coup had failed and General Tanay was in hiding, Mr. Najibullah said.

Najibullah Receives Representatives, Elders 6 Mar

Salang District

LD0603170190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met today with the representatives and elders of the south Salang at Gol Khanah Presidential Palace.

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that a few verses were recited from the holy Koran and then a representative of the district of Salang spoke on behalf of the people of that district. Expressing support for the recent speech and peace proposals by esteemed Najibullah, he presented the proposals and demands of the people of Salang district. Pledges were made by esteemed Najibullah to assess these proposals. At the end of the meeting prayers were offered to ensure peace and the unity of the people of Afghanistan.

Baghlan Province

LD0603170690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met today with representatives and elders of the people of Baghlan Province at Gol Khanah Presidential Palace.

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that a few verses were recited from the holy Koran and then Arbab Nawab Khan, a representative of the people of Baghlan in the Wolasi Jirgah spoke on behalf of the people of Baghland. Expressing support for the programs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the national reconciliation policy, he pledged the further participation of the people of Baghlan in implementing the national reconciliation policy and ensuring peace in the country.

Then, five elders of the people of Baghlan, Haji Ramatollah, Haji Muhammad Husayn, Mirza Akhtar Muhammad, Enayatollah Bakhtyar, and Haji Muhammad Rahim presented their proposals in connection with environmental problems. Esteemed Najibullah promised to appoint a delegation in order to assess them.

India

Troops in Kashmir Fire To Clear Protestors

BK0403161090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1524 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, March 4 (AFP)—Indian troops fired shots Sunday [4 March] to break up demonstrations in several curfew-bound Kashmiri towns by Moslems protesting New Delhi's control of this northern state, witnesses said.

Soldiers in combat uniforms fired over the heads of demonstrators in Srinagar, Sopor and Baramulla as hundreds of Moslems left their homes to participate in rallies demanding a plebiscite in Kashmir, they said.

No one was reported killed in the shooting, but officials said three troopers were injured when Moslem protesters hurled a petrol bomb at a riot squad in Sopor, 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of here.

Repeated attempts to organise pro-plebiscite demonstrations in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital and an erstwhile tourist resort, were broken up by troops with orders to shoot curfew violators on sight, witnesses said.

"People came out of narrow alleys, shouted anti-Indian slogans and ran away when soldiers fired," one witness said.

Similar attempts elsewhere in the Kashmir valley, where 24 towns remain curfew-bound since Friday [2 March], were also broken by the security forces who have also ordered a crackdown on Moslem separatist camps in Kashmir.

State government authorities said the state's Moslem conference party President Abdul Ghani was among 25 prominent separatists arrested Sunday on charges of waging war against India. No details were available of the other arrests in the security sweeps that began two days ago in this troubled state in an attempt to quell mass protests by thousands and street violence blamed on Moslem secessionists.

Olive-green armoured personnel carriers cruised the deserted city streets here as riot troops riding jeeps fitted with light machine guns roamed the alleys in search of troublemakers, the witnesses said.

The authorities Sunday broadcast messages asking people not to believe growing local rumours that Srinagar's water mains had been poisoned, and in several districts policemen drank from taps to convince residents, they said. Panic had gripped the city following rumours that Moslem militants had poisoned Srinagar's water tanks and reservoirs, officials said.

Earlier Sunday, residents said there was a shortage of medicines in Srinagar hospitals and added that it was difficult to reach medical centres because of the round-the-clock curfew. "There is a real shortage of medicines in all the hospitals of Srinagar," said Saifuddin Soz, an MP [Member of Parliament] belonging to the regional National Conference Party which governed the state until it was put under federal rule in January. Mr. Soz said: "There seem to be no medicines in the hospitals. You know, there are wounded people there. Pharmaceutical firms have stopped supplying essential drugs to Kashmir." He added that he was also in touch with the Indian Red Cross.

An indefinite curfew clamped Friday shut Srinagar's population of 800,000 indoors and the streets were empty, except for the security forces. The curfew was imposed a day after 34 people were killed and 100 injured as troopers fired to break up several thousand Moslems marchers in Srinagar, chanting anti-India slogans and demanding a U.N.-supervised plebiscite in this, India's only Moslem-dominated state.

Meanwhile, Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister P. Upendra in New Delhi denied reports that journalists were being asked to leave Kashmir. He also told a group of journalists Sunday there was no censorship on news here.

Reports said Friday that Jammu and Kashmir State Governor Jagmohan had asked reporters to leave the

region, but the minister said he had checked with the state government and the report was incorrect.

India blames Pakistan for Kashmir's bloody Moslem campaign in Kashmir, which Islamabad disputes. Pakistan has denied helping the Moslem guerrillas, but has denounced the killings by Indian security forces. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since the subcontinent's 1947 partition and independence from Britain.

Thursday's [1 March] violence was the worst since January 20-21 when 50 people died in clashes with security forces.

Troops Fire During 5 Mar Rally

BK0503121290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1153 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Srinagar, India, March 5 (AFP)—Security forces fired warning shots here Monday [5 March] as some 3,000 angry Muslims, protesting the rumoured arrest of two top Kashmiri Muslim leaders, held a rally during a curfew break.

Paramilitary border guards fired the shots into the air after the protestors collected around the city's jama masjid (mosque) shouting slogans denouncing the alleged arrests, which the government later denied.

The demonstrators began gathering after rumours circulated that a well-known Muslim politician, Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq, had been arrested along with the mosque's chief priest. Mr. Farooq is the president of the Kashmir Awami Action Committee, which supports demands for a United Nations-supervised plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Tension mounted in the area as the crowds began chanting anti-government slogans. The paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) began to fire after the Muslims refused to disperse, witnesses said.

Calm was restored only after the federally administered Kashmir State government announced that the two Muslim leaders had neither been taken into custody nor put under house arrest. But gunfire erupted in two districts of Srinagar shortly after the curfew, which had been lifted for three hours, was reimposed at 8:00 a.m. (0230 GMT). The security forces repulsed attacks from snipers suspected to be Muslim militants, observers said. No casualties were reported in the exchange of fire.

The relaxation of the curfew was the first since it was imposed Friday [2 March] on 28 areas of Kashmir, including Srinagar, the state's summer capital, after a day of violence blamed on Muslim militants fighting for independence of the border state. Witnesses said the curfew break was otherwise peaceful, as residents of this city of 800,000 thronged the few open shops to make essential purchases after being confined to their homes for three days.

Army troops and paramilitary personnel in battle fatigues were posted at key points and were seen patrolling Srinagar in armoured personnel carriers and jeeps fitted with light machine guns during the curfew relaxation.

In a related development, a senior Indian official held discussions with Kashmir government officials Monday [5 March], a day after flying here for a first-hand review of the escalating Muslim unrest.

V.C. Pande, the federal cabinet secretary and a trusted aide of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, was closeted for several hours with the officials, but no details were available. Officials said that Mr. Pande, who is due to return Tuesday [6 March] to New Delhi, was joined in the talks by R.P. Joshi, chief of the Federal Intelligence Bureau.

Meanwhile, officials said Muslim militants abducted two men suspected of being police informers early Monday. There was no word of their fate, but such kidnappings have previously ended in murder. [passage omitted]

3 Injured in Cross Fire

BK0503091990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, three persons, including two security personnel, were injured in a cross-firing incident during curfew relaxation period in Srinagar this morning. The incident occurred near (Barsha) Bridge. Curfew was relaxed in Srinagar from 0500 to 0800 this morning, while no relaxation was given in Sopor and Baramula. According to official reports, curfew was relaxed in some other towns also.

'Top-Level' Team Reviews Kashmir Situation

BK0503150390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] A top-level central team has made an extensive on-the-spot review of the situation in Srinagar. The team—comprising the cabinet secretary, Mr. V.C. Pande; the home secretary, Mr. Shiromani Sharma; and Defense Secretary Mr. Naresh Chandra—returned to New Delhi today after meeting the Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Jag Mohan; his advisers; and the corps commander of Srinagar. The three secretaries will brief the union cabinet on the situation in the valley this evening.

During their visit, the central team assured the state authorities of all assistance, including additional police force and a stronger communication network.

Briefs Federal Cabinet Committee

BK0503160990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] The Political Affairs Committee of the Union Cabinet has been briefed about the present situation in

the Kashmir Valley. The committee met in New Delhi a short while ago under the chairmanship of the prime minister. The top-level central team comprising the Cabinet secretary, the home secretary, and defense secretary who returned to New Delhi today after meetings with the Jammu and Kashmir authorities in Srinagar briefed the committee. The secretaries had met the state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, his advisers, and the Army corps commander in Srinagar during their visit. They assured the state government of all assistance, including additional police force and a stronger communication network.

The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, met the prime minister in New Delhi today. They discussed ways to involve the people in the valley in bringing back normalcy. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh earlier called on the president, Mr. Venkataraman, and briefed him about the situation in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and two BSF [Border Security Force] soldiers were injured in terrorist firing in Srinagar. The incident took place near Badshah Chowk during the three-hour curfew relaxation in the city in the morning. In another incident of firing at CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] personnel, no one was injured.

The state administration today dismissed 11 police personnel from service for having failed in taking action against subversives.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has called for a new approach above narrow partisan considerations to resolve the problem in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party's Politburo member, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, appealed to all political parties, including the Congress-I, to adopt a positive attitude and help the government to arrive at a national consensus.

Election Results Updated; Repoll in Meham

BK0403103490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] With 14 results of the Bihar assembly elections yet to be declared, the stage seems to be set for the formation of a non-Congress-I government in the state for the first time in over a decade.

The Janata Dal has emerged as the single largest party by winning 119 seats of 309 results declared so far, the Congress-I having secured 67 seats emerged as the second largest party. Meanwhile, the secretary to the Election Commission, Mr. C.L. Rose, told our Patna correspondent, G.M. Mustafa, that counting in five constituencies has been stopped for seeking some necessary clarifications from the Election Commission. He adds that repolling at the two polling stations in Hussainabad and in nine stations in Gopalganj is being held today, while order has been given for repolling on Tuesday in 27 polling stations of Lalganj and at eight polling stations in Mahnar constituency.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the Congress-I has already won an absolute majority in the 60-member assembly by securing 33 seats. Six more results are yet to be declared. The party is meeting in a couple of days to elect its leader.

As reported earlier, the lieutenant governor of Pondicherry, Mrs. Chandaravati, has invited the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham]-led front leader, Mr. D. Ramachandran, to form the government.

The Janata Dal subcommittee looking into the Meham by-election in Haryana has requested the Election Commission to hold a repoll in the entire Meham constituency. This was stated by the Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, in a statement in New Delhi today. The subcommittee was constituted by the political affairs committee of the dal which met at the residence of the Janata Dal president, Mr. V.P. Singh. The committee comprised Mr. Ajit Singh, Mr. Sharad Yadav, Mr. Arun Nehru, Mr. George Fernandes, and Mr. Yashwant Sinha.

Mr. Yadva later met Mr. Devi Lal and apprised him of the view of the subcommittee. Mr. Devi Lal, the statement says, has readily endorsed the opinion of the subcommittee and said that he would make any sacrifice for the image and the prestige of the party. The spokesman said that Mr. V.P. Singh has wholeheartedly welcomed the decision of the subcommittee and Mr. Devi Lal.

A PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] message just now received says that in Maharashtra Mr. Sharad Pawar has been sworn in as the chief minister for the third time. The governor, Mr. C. Subrahmaniam, administered the oath of office and secrecy at a ceremony in Raj Bhavan [governor house] in Bombay today. Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde, Mr. Ramrao Adik, and Mr. Ramdas Athawale were sworn in as cabinet ministers.

Singh on 'Poll Violence'

BK0503162090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that his government would wait for completion of the inquiry by the Election Commission into the alleged poll violence in Meham constituency in Haryana. He told newsmen in New Delhi that the Janata Dal has taken a firm and collective stand on the issue and demanded a repoll in the entire constituency.

Answering a question, he denied that there are differences of opinion in his party on this issue. The Election Commission's verdict should be awaited, he added.

Later, in a statement, the Janata Dal general secretary, Mr. Sharad Yadav, reaffirmed that the party's suggestion for demanding repoll in entire Meham constituency has been fully supported by Mr. Devi Lal right from the

beginning. He said that Mr. Devi Lal even suggested that repoll should be conducted with the support of the staff and security personnel of the central government to eliminate any misuse of the state government machinery.

The Haryana Janata Dal legislature party in the meanwhile has expressed confidence in the leadership of Mr. Om Prakash Chautala. In a resolution, it authorized the chief minister to take action against those who indulged in antiparty activities.

BJP-Janata Dal Rajasthan Government Sworn In

BK0403163390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] In Rajasthan, a four-member Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]-Janata Dal coalition government headed by Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat of BJP was sworn in by the governor, Mr. D.P. Chattopadhaya at Raj Bhawan [Governor's House] in Jaipur this evening. Of the three cabinet ranks ministers, two—Mr. Bhanwar Lal Sharma and Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi—belong to BJP and Mr. Nathi Singh to the Janata Dal. Mr. Shekhawat has become the chief minister for the second time after a gap of about a decade.

Non-Congress-I Governments in 2 More States

BK0503091190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] New ministries headed by Mr. Shanata Kumar and Mr. Biju Patnaik have assumed office in Himachal Pradesh and Orissa, while Mr. Sunderlal Patwa has been unanimously elected leader of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] legislature party in Madhya Pradesh, and Mr. Gegong Apang the leader of the Congress-I legislature party in Arunachal Pradesh.

In Himachal Pradesh, a seven-member BJP ministry led by Mr. Shanta Kumar was sworn in in Simla this morning. The governor, Mr. Rachaiah, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Shanta Kumar and his colleagues at a simple ceremony at Raj Bhavan [Governor's House]. Mr. Shanta Kumar took his oath in Sanskrit. Mr. Shanta Kumar told our Simla correspondent after taking oath that the first and foremost task of his government would be to fulfill the expectations and aspirations of the people and provide a clean and efficient administration.

In Orissa, Mr. Biju Patnaik has been sworn in as the new chief minister. The state governor, Mr. Yagya Dutta Sharma, administered the oath of office and secrecy at Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar to Mr. Patnaik who turned 75 today.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the last result declared this morning has gone in favor of the Janata Party. The latest party position in the 60-member assembly is: Congress-I 37, Janata Dal 11, Janata Party one, and independents seven.

BJP Forms Government in Madhya Pradesh

BK0503131690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Excerpts] New ministries headed by Mr. Sunderlal Patwa, Mr. Biju Patnaik, and Mr. Shanta Kumar have assumed office in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Himachal Pradesh.

In Madhya Pradesh, a BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] ministry headed by Mr. Sunderlal Patwa was sworn in by the governor, Kunwar Mahmud Ali Khan, at a function in Bhopal this evening. All India Radio Bhopal correspondent, Masud Ahmad, reports that the installation of the BJP government today marks the formation of a non-Congress government in the state after a gap of 10 years. For Mr. Patwa, this is the second stint as the chief minister. Earlier, he held the post for about three weeks in 1980 during the Janata regime. [passage omitted]

The new leader of the Congress-I legislature party in Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Gegong Apang, has been invited by the governor, Mr. R.D. Pradhan, to form the government. Our Itanagar correspondent, B.R. Kohai, reports that Mr. Apang will be sworn in on Wednesday [7 March].

Iran

Hostages' Release Without Preconditions Urged

LD0603081990 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial Tuesday suggested that the issue of Western hostages in Lebanon should be solved without any preconditions without being related to the resumption of ties between Tehran and Washington.

A few days ago, another English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' linked the freedom of hostages to the resumption of diplomatic ties with the United States. However, TEHRAN TIMES rejected the idea reiterating "Iran has no hand in the hostage taking at all."

The paper also denied allegations that the Foreign Ministry official Mahmud Hashemi's current visit to Syria has anything to do with the freedom of the hostages.

"At this hour, Irano-U.S. relations are not under discussion and such a move is also not supported by the leader of the Islamic Republic and its top officials," the paper underlined adding, "Islam in no way allows or condones the idea that people should be taken or held hostage."

It is expected, added the editorial, "certain Western countries who have influence among the captors of the Iranian hostages in Lebanon will do their best so that through all-out efforts all the captives may reach their homes."

Hoping that this "thorny issue can be sorted out in the near future in a sincere spirit by sincere people," the paper repeated its earlier speculation that "1990 can and will be the last year of the captivity of these hostages."

TEHRAN TIMES in conclusion voiced the conviction that certain Western countries "are not interested in the freedom of the hostages but rather they are using these captives for their political ends."

Hashemi's Syria Visit Not Linked to Hostages

LD0603111690 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES in its second editorial Tuesday rejected speculations by the Western media that the current visit to Damascus by head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa Department Mahmud Hashemi is linked to a possible release of western hostages in Lebanon. It also disclosed that Syrian President Hafiz Hashemi al-Asad will visit Iran soon following an imminent visit to Tehran by his Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Hashemi is carrying a message from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to his Syrian counterpart, the daily said.

Pointing to Tehran-Damascus cordial ties cemented from the very beginning of the Islamic Republic in Iran, the daily believed there are many bonds that tie the two capitals. As such, it pointed that the two countries have common enemies as a result of which the two countries should be in constant consultation. It also noted, "support for Islamic and popular forces in Lebanon struggling against political Maronite plots and Israeli threats constitute common points in both countries' foreign policies."

The paper further stressed Iran's acknowledgement of the Syrian role in consolidating the position of the Islamic and popular forces in Lebanon and said, "if Syria ever succumbs to pressure from regional conservative governments and pulls back from Lebanon, it will be Lebanese Islamic and popular forces which will bear the brunt and will have to pay the price."

Furthermore, it added, "it will be militant Lebanese groups which will be streamrolled should Damascus cave in to pressures from Western powers and bullying Zionist policies."

The editorial further underlined the strategic importance of Syria's lining up against Israel and voiced the belief "the Islamic Republic will be suffering a big blow to its foreign policy if Syria joins the submissive club of countries that have accepted the Camp David accords.

"It is also out of such an understanding that Damascus leaders too are well cognizant of Tehran's position vis-a-vis its enemies. Such a far-reaching understanding then makes frequent visits of Iran-Syria officials to one anothers' capitals very normal thing," concluded the paper terming the type of sensation raised by the Western media over the visit as "much too fancied."

UNCHR Officials Meet Kya-Nuri in Evin Prison

LD0203180590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Esteemed listeners and dear compatriots, further details have again been issued on the report of the UN Commission on Human Rights [UNCHR] mission's visit to Iran. Even though the stratagems and limitations put to work by the regime to neutralize the UN mission's inspection tour and hide the facts, are many, and (?have led to) the report by the UNCHR representative to be obscure and inconclusive, in many areas exposing only the minimun level of the violation of human rights, yet the report is, at the same time, telling of certain shocking facts.

Parts of the report compiled by Ronaldo Galindo Pohl are devoted to his visit to Evin prison state that he met Comrade Nureddin Kya-Nuri, former secretary general of the Tudeh Party of Iran who has spent the past seven years in the prisons of the regime. Galindo Pohl, in the presence of the representatives of the Islamic Republic, talked to Nureddin Kya-Nuri and two other (?cadre) members of the Tudeh Party about the use of torture in prison, and Comrade Kya-Nuri while showing his crippled hands and broken figures, confirmed the extreme use of torture in prison. Also, in connection with the question put to him by Galindo Pohl that, from the viewpoint of the Islamic Republic, he was spying for a foreign country, Kya-Nuri vehemently rejected his accusation. This is the same accusation which was game for constant propaganda, against the Tudeh Party of Iran and some other political forces, for the constructed television shows of the regime and the regime's intelligence organs and repressive (?bodies). In addition to seeing the former first secretary of the Tudeh Party of Iran, six other political prisoners of the regime admitted to using torture and to inflicting a variety of physical and (?psychological) sufferings on 90 percent of the prisoner.

Dear listeners, the facts revealed here are (?horrific) and shocking. Even though the freedom-loving and politically active elements of the country as well as many international forums are well aware of the crimes that the regime commits in its prisons, these exceptional circumstances, however, wherein evidence and documents are produced and witnesses talk directly on this issue to an international body, are worthy of attention and are important from every point of view. Let us not forget that before his trip to Iran Galindo Pohl had asked the officials of the Islamic Republic to arrange for him to meet political prisoners, freely and without the presence of the regime's representatives [words indistinct].

Even though this was a demand which the leaders of the regime agreed to in practice, they also made sure that their prison officials and intelligence officers were present in these visits. All the same, the Evin prisoners, knowing the consequences of the exposure of the

regime's crimes and the clear fate of every kind of [words indistinct], (?bravely) confirmed the use of torture and rejected the accusations of the president of the Islamic Republic, which he always based on the prisoners' own admissions. [passage omitted]

Freedom-seeking compatriots! Political and freedom-loving forces of the country! [passage indistinct] The fact that the regime agreed to the visit of the UNCHR's representative and the report which resulted from this, even though limited and incomplete, is, nevertheless, a serious victory for the strugglers (?in the path of freedom). [passage omitted]

Amnesty International 'Silent' on UN Report

LD0303195390 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] London, March 3 IRNA—Five days after the United Nations human rights report on Iran was published, rejecting many allegations made against the Islamic Republic, the London-based Amnesty International is still silent and not willing to make any comment on the report, since it rejects many of Amnesty's previous allegations against Iran.

Amnesty seems to have been caught by surprise with the publication of the 76-page report, which was drawn up after a U.N. delegation visited Iran for one week at the end of January.

The five-man team investigated allegations of violations of human rights by the Islamic Republic mostly made by anti-Iranian terrorist groups based abroad, who have been broadcasting their propaganda against Iran through Amnesty International.

IRNA asked Miss Sarina Lim, Amnesty's press officer, what her organisation's reaction was to the report's findings that some Iranians, listed by terrorist groups in Iran and even by Amnesty International as having been executed in Iran, were actually alive and had been seen by the U.N. team. She could not comment except to say that her organisation's 5-man research team was reading the report carefully and five days was not enough to prepare a comment.

Amnesty International's press officer later said that she personally knows nothing, when IRNA asked for a comment on the U.N. report's acceptance that prisons in Iran operated normally and there was no evidence of torture, which Amnesty has claimed on many occasions.

IRNA asked whether Amnesty's press officer knows anything about the previous allegation by the organisation regarding the religious minorities' situation in Iran, which has been described by Amnesty as having been violated, whereas the U.N. report says minorities in the Islamic Republic are enjoying their rights and living peacefully with everybody. The 5-man U.N. probe team led by Salvadorean Lawyer Reynaldo Galindo Pohl visited the representatives of the minority groups in Iran. Miss Lim could only repeat that she knows nothing and even claimed that she has only been in her job for a few months.

IRNA asked whether Amnesty is going to repeat its execution list in Iran, which says that their "reliable sources from Iran" said that a number of political prisoners have been executed as "drug traffickers", while the UN report clearly denies this. The UN investigating team said they interviewed opposition members who said they had no evidence of any political prisoners being executed as drug dealers in Iran.

Amnesty International's press officer repeated her claim that 5 days is not enough time for their 5-man team to investigate a 76-page report in English and she added that Amnesty's reply to the UN report is unlkely to be ready for publication before the middle of next week, which means at least 10 days after the UN report's publication in Geneva.

The UN report followed an eight-day visit by 5 U.N. officials to Iran and denied many of the charges levelled against the Islamic Republic thanking the Iranian authorities for their cooperation. The report had also stressed that "the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been receptive" and that "this receptiveness indicates that other suggestions and criticisms could well be taken into account."

Pohl said in the report that he visited all parts of Evin Prison in Tehran and spoke to many prisoners, including "political prisoners". He was made familiar with the Iranian prison system and stated that the prisons have education facilities and that radio, television and press are available.

UN Secretary General's Proposed Agenda Viewed

NC0403102290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0455 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. The UN secretary general met with Mr. Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's representative at the United Nations, on Thursday [1 March] and handed him the UN Security Council's statement on Resolution 598. During the meeting, Perez de Cuellar expressed satisfaction at this statement and said that this was the first time since the approval of Resolution 598 that the Security Council had issued such a decisive statement in support of his efforts. He added that he intends to make the best use of this important document and to resume his efforts for the implementation of the resolution.

The last round of indirect talks between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers failed when Iraq did not reply to the agenda proposed by the secretary general. But it is some time now since the secretary general and his associates started fresh efforts for the resumption of the talks. During the past few weeks, the secretary general

has held three meetings with the permanent members of the Security Council and one meeting with the 10 non-permanent members of the council to discuss the resumption of talks on the resolution.

The secretary general's recent activities all form part of the effort to find a specific agenda to enable the talks to progress. Of course, in the months since the establishment of the cease-fire and the commencement of the talks, the secretary general has propounded several proposals and initiatives to the Iranian and Iraqi political delegations. But these have all been fruitless as a result of obstructionism by Iraq, which wants to achieve its own ends.

At any rate, despite past deadlocks, the secretary general intends to pave the way for progress in the talks. It is said that the agenda that the secretary general will compile for the talks this time will be much wider than in the past. In the secretary general's new agenda, the withdrawal of forces to international borders and the exchange of prisoners of war, points which have also been clarified in the articles of the resolution and in Paragraph 41 of Perez de Cuellar's report to the Security Council, will continue to maintain their place. The secretary general's proposed agenda also includes the consolidation of the cease-fire regulations and the principle of freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf. At the same time, talks for normalizing the use of the Arvand River are among the points that the secretary general has included in the new agenda. The UN Secretariat intends to include the determining of the mode and timetable of the implementation of Articles 6, 7, and 8 of Resolution 598 in the new agenda. These three articles concern the question of who started the war, reconstruction, and assistance by the international community toward making good the war damages and ensuring regional security, respectively.

In addition to bearing in mind the implementation of the resolution in full on the basis of the need to achieve a comprehensive peace, the new agenda will also possibly set a one- or two-month timetable. At any rate, Dr. Kharrazi, the Islamic Republic's permanent representative at the United Nations, met with the secretary general and announced Iran's readiness to study the secretary general's agenda upon receipt of it. He also pointed to the need for the secretary general to take decisive and immediate steps toward the implementation of the resolution. Iran believes that the secretary general's proposed agenda should take the major priorities of the resolution into consideration so that progress can be achieved. The propounding of issues that have no basis in fact only intensifies the extent of conflict.

The withdrawal of forces is now an indisputable priority because this will end active hostilities. It is then that it will be possible to carry out a rapid exchange of prisoners of war on the basis of the Third Geneva Convention.

KEYHAN Examines 'Fragile Truce' With Iraq

LD0403091890 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—An Iranian daily warned the U.N. Security Council Sunday that the fragile truce between Iran and Iraq could be hurt if the council did not respect its own document.

"KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" editorializing on last Wednesday statement of the U.N. Security Council supporting the secretary general's efforts to implement the Resolution 598 by bringing back Iran and Iraq to the negotiation table, said that the statement lacked credibility.

"Despite all the expressions of support the council has refused to extend practical assistance to the U.N. chief in this regard and as a consequence Iran and Iraq are as far from peace as they were in August 1988 when the cease-fire went into effect," said the English daily.

The daily referred to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's call for a new round of peace talks to bring a permanent settlement to the eight-year-old-military conflict, said if the Iranian side is expected to show flexibility and compromise in the new initiative "it would be better to call it off." A new round of talks would be waste of time and resources if the U.N. secretary general fails to urge Baghdad to withdraw from all the Iranian territories still under Iraqi occupation, said the daily.

The Iranian government must "clarify this point without any considerations," stressed the editorial. "If the Security Council is true to its cause, it should stop playing with words and get down to business with the defaulting party," it said.

The daily said that no one could say how long the no-war no-peace situation would last adding, "optimism can play into the hands of our enemies more so because the no-war no-peace is the worst thing that has happened after the guns fell silent."

Smugglers, Foreign Mercenaries' Convoy 'Smashed'

LD0303175390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Kerman, during a coordinated operation by Kerman Province military and security forces a convoy of armed smugglers and foreign mercenaries was smashed in the passes leading out of the desert.

According to our correspondent's report, during a joint 32-hour operation in Qa'em Shahr, in Zarand, Islamic Revolution Committee Guards, the 103d Imam Reza, and 105th Zolfaqar Battalions from the Abut Zar Base, with the cooperation of Kerman Gendarmerie personnel, the Zarand Corps, and enjoying effective support from the Kerman Army aviation base, laid siege to the

insurgents on the heights at the edge of the desert. They completely destroyed the convoy and killing all the insurgents.

West's Reaction to Islam's 'Awakening' Viewed

NC0303112490 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Feb 90 pp 10, 11

[A. Salah commentary: "The Crusaders and Islam in the Arena of Soviet Azerbaijan"]

[Excerpts] Developments in the Soviet Union continue to be priority news items throughout the world, and all the world's radio and television news services and the press devote a considerable attention to the incidents in the Soviet bloc.

The world's news media have been focusing for weeks on the problems in the Soviet Union's Muslim-inhabited republics. Various analyses on finding the root for the world movement of Islam and its consequences as well as on ways to confront this movement are also main topics.

After the massacre and the suppression of the demonstrations of the Muslim people of Soviet Azerbaijan by Moscow's Red Army, the West breathed a sigh of relief and confirmed the Stalinist diplomacy of perestroyka in confronting the Muslim-inhabited republics. They regarded this is a show of force by the Soviet leadership to the other Muslim-inhabited areas in the southern part of the Soviet Union, and assessed it as something that would terrify other republics. But the expansion of the Islamic wave in the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR], Kirghiz SSR, Daghestan, Turkmen SSR, Kazakh SSR, and Uzbek SSR upset the West's analyses.

At the same time, thinking that "tanks" could defeat "slogans," Moscow sent the Red Army and its columns of tanks to the Muslim-inhabited republics hoping to be able to crush the Islamic movement. But it did not achieve what it expected.

The views expressed and the analyses in the West's mass media are aimed at supporting the Kremlin's militaristic policies toward the Muslim-inhabited republics and at making this support continue up until Moscow regains control of the region.

But here and there, some analysts in the West reveal the reason for the West's support of the Soviet leadership's militaristic policy, referring to the growing wave of Islamic influence as the main reason for this. While expressing their great fear toward the growing wave of Islam, in its analyses the West also reveals its crusader and anti-Islamic feelings that have been injected into the blood and body of the Western societies.

In these articles and talks Islam is referred to as a destructive threat, not only for the future of the Soviet Union but for the entire world. It is truly a source of regret that Islam, which is based on peace, mercy and unity, should be portrayed in this way. But this behavior by the West shows that they fear the Koranic verse, "They are firm on the infidels and merciful among themselves." [passage omitted]

We do not claim that all this commotion stems from the fact that the Soviet empire may be disintegrating. But we do believe that all the incidents speak of the awakening of the Muslim people throughout the world and especially in the Soviet Union. The world of Islam has now started to move like a huge iceberg. Only its tip can be seen. But the world of blasphemy and arrogance is terrified of the larger part of the iceberg which is in the water.

The Muslims of the world today want to revive their past granduer and they are also aware of the fact that only one moment of negligence can entangle them in the web of the plots by the big leaders of world blasphemy.

Majles Deputy Says Internal 'Discord' Aids Iraq

LD0503212890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] During yesterday's open Islamic Majles session, Arsalan Safa'i, the deputy for Bakhtaran, was the first pre-agenda speaker. He referred to the gains of the Islamic revolution, and said:

[Begin recording] The glorious Islamic revolution is the fruit of efforts of millions of valuable people and thousands of eternal martyrs. It has been passed into our hand today as a hope for humanity. The imam, as prophet of the Islamic revolution in the contemporary world, has made us duty bound to safeguard this divine trust and to strive to prepare the necessities required for its survival. He made it a duty of all Muslims in general and the nation of Iran in particular to safeguard this revolution.

He said that the secret behind our victory was the divine motivation and supreme aspirations of the divine rule. This was made secure through the nation's unity throughout the country, its striving for the same motive and objectives. The imam graciously said: I, in my will and testament, remind all the present and future generations that if they wish to see the survival of Islam and divine rule, and if they wish to see that the hands of colonialism and domestic and foreign profiteers are kept away from this country, then they should protect this divine motivation, which Almighty God has mentioned in the noble Koran. The opposite of this motivation, which threatens the victory and its survival, is division and discord and complacency toward the goal of the revolution. Divisive moves and dividing issues are contrary to the deeds which please God, and are contrary to the interests of the revolution and the country.

Such discord used to worry the imam of the ummah, and also concerns the great leader of the Islamic revolution. It was due to the same discord and differences of opinion that the feeble enemy managed to escape from the mighty grasp of our committed combatants. And today, contrary to the articles of Resolution 598, he [Saddam

Husayn] is refusing to withdraw from over 2,400 square kilometers of our country's sacred territory; is opposing all the international regulations and global norms; is making baseless statement on the valid legal treaty of 1975 concerning Arvand Rud and is continuing to massacre Muslim Kurds and Arabs.

*Azari-Qomi Examines Khamene'i's Leadership

90OI0192A London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Mar 90 pp 1, 11

[Text] In his pre-sermon talk at the Tehran Friday prayer service, Ayatollah Azari-Qomi announced that on Thursday a number of Qom Seminary clergymen expressed doubts about Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's competence as religious leader of the Shiite community. He announced that the leadership is in direct relationship with the Qom seminaries, and said: A group of people in Qom Seminary are trying to weaken Ayatollah Khamene'i's religious leadership and to undermine it.

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi's remarks, which were broadcast directly from Tehran radio's No. 2 transmitter during news coverage of the Friday prayers service, were censored at Tehran radio's main transmitter.

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi announced to those Qom Seminary clergymen who oppose Ayatollah Khamene'i's religious leadership that religious literacy is not enough for religious leadership. He announced that he personally is more literate than Ayatollah Khamene'i, but for management of the country mere literacy is not sufficient, there are other special conditions. The leader must be a manager, efficient, and then there is piety and tens of other qualifications.

In his criticism of Ayatollah Khamene'i's opponents, Ayatollah Azari-Qomi called them American agents. He said: The Americans have gained influence in the Qom Seminary.

Opposition to Ayatollah Khamene'i at the Qom Seminary is based on his lack of religious competence to hold the position of religious leader. During the selection of Khamene'i as leader and conferring upon him the title of ayatollah, the matter of his lack of competence was seriously discussed.

Mohsen Rafiqdust Praises Role of Guards

LD0203134990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] In a speech before the Friday prayers sermons on the occasion of Janbazan [Disabled] Day, Mohsen Rafiqdust, the head of the Janbazan and Oppressed Foundation, emphasized: The faithful guards who have signed their covenant of blood with the sacred being of the imam will continue their covenant under the shadow of the leadership of his worthy disciple, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution.

He said: We are the same guards whose names shake the palaces of tyranny in Washington and Moscow and we are the same ones who eradicated the domestic counterrevolutionaries with God's grace and with our blood. Despite the report of the representative of the UN Human Rights Committee, what has been said about the violation of human rights in Iran is pure lies. We still see that the arrogant mass media quote the counterrevolutionaries but do not refer to the remarks of the representative of the Human Rights Committee. So long as a single pasdar or hezbollahi is alive world arrogance will not be friendly toward us.

Air Force Commander Praises Disabled Veterans

LD0303165490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] During the ceremonies held to mark the day of the disabled, Brigadier General Sattari, the Air Force commander, while praising the self-sacrifice and devotion of disabled Air Force personnel said if today we enjoy a system that is both strong and stable and we are able to resist and stand against all conspiracies and pressures and plots of the arrogance, it is only a result of steadfastness, unity, and self-sacrifice of the nation through the guidance of the great leader of the revolution [Khomeyni], the revered leader [Khamene'i], and the valuable teachings of Islam.

According to the Central News Unit report, in those ceremonies, held in the Air Force logistics center, a disabled Air Force veteran announced the readiness of the Air Force disabled to safeguard the Islamic revolution's achievements under the leadership of the revolution's revered leader.

Tehran Urges Good Economic Relations With USSR

LD0303143690 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Here is another commentary for today which deals with the beginning of the 12th session of the joint commission for Iran and Soviet cooperation. Today the 12th session of this commission commenced its work in Tehran. The head of the Soviet communication (?roads) Konarev presided over an economic delegation which arrived in Tehran yesterday to participate in the session. Konarev was greeted in Tehran by Iran's minister of economic [affairs] and finance, Nurbakhsh.

On his trip to Tehran Mr. Konarev said negotiations at this stage will be held based on general agreement reached between Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr. Gorbachev. Further, he said that the purpose of the 11th Moscow session's protocol will be discussed and pursued at the Tehran session and a protocol of the 12th session which involves the two countries' cooperation in various fields will be signed. [passage omitted]

Within this framework the Islamic Republic of Iran calls for the creation of healthy relations and good neighborhood with having realistic viewpoint toward the two countries' political and economic developments, and it appears that the development of economic relations and political cooperation between the two countries in time will create good understanding and sound relations between the two sides.

USSR Waterways To Allow Iranian Vessels

LD0303224790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] USSR Railways Minister Konarev met with Roads and Transport Minister Seyyed-Kya this afternoon.

During the meeting the roads and transport minister requested that Iranian ships be able to sail in Soviet waterways. The request was accepted by the Soviet delegation.

During the meeting Mr Konarev declared his country's readiness to cooperate with and sell passenger planes to Iran under agreement. He invited Mr Seyyed-Kya to visit the Soviet Union.

Iranian-Soviet Economic Commission Talks Continue

Ministers on 'Speeding Up' Projects

LD0303223990 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—The 12th Irano-Soviet joint economic commission met here Saturday with both sides calling for speeding up the execution of the joint projects.

Iran's Economy and Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh, who led the Iranian side to the talks, called for removal of obstalces in the way of increasing the capacity of the Esfahan steel mill to 1.9 million tons a year.

The Soviet delegation was led by Railways Minister Nikolay Konarev who arrived here on March 1.

Nurbakhsh stressed on carrying out of the Soviet-collaborated projects in Iran at the earliest in return for Iranian natural gas exports to that country. He also announced Iran's interest in establishing a joint shipping line between the two neighbours and purchasing new ships from the Soviet Union at competitive prices.

Tehran-Moscow ties have substantially increased since the two countries signed agreements for long-term cooperation until the year 2000 last June, he said. Nurbakhsh expressed hope that the two sides would soon start cooperation for laying the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan rail tracks in Khorasan.

He expressed satisfaction at the new Soviet policy of allowing its Muslim citizens to freely express their ideas and perform their religious duties.

Konarev terms the 12th joint meeting as an 'important event' in mutual ties, saying the two countries needed to take a daring step to step up the pace for implementation of parts of their joint projects. He said the Soviet Union was prepared to sign a final agreement for increasing the capacity of the Esfahan steel mill and cooperate with Iran in completing its subway system.

Increased cultural cooperation would certainly benefit the Soviet Union's 60 million Muslim community, Konarev said. He was confident that the protocol expected to be signed at the end of the 12th session would help the two countries further close their views on regarding long term cooperation.

USSR Ready To Provide Resources

LD0503143190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] The deputy Soviet railways minister, in a meeting with the Islamic Republic of Iran's deputy minister of roads and transportation and managing director of the railways, expressed the desire for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries' railways, and the increasing of the cargo capacity through the Jolfa border. The deputy Soviet railways minister said that his country is ready to provide the materials needed by Iran's railways, by purchasing wagons manufactured in Pars wagon-manufacturing factory. [as heard]

Also in that meeting, the two sides discussed the construction of the Mashhad-Sarrakhs-Tajan railway line, which enjoys a special priority in the contracts signed by the officials from the two sides.

KEYHAN Comments on Baku, Dushanbe Incidents

NC0503125090 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Feb 90 p 20

[Seyyed Mas'ud Jazayeri commentary: "The Soviet Union Is Passing Through a Major Development"]

[Text] Following the bloody clashes in Azerbaijan, the Muslim-inhabited city of Dushanbe in Soviet Tajikistan was also attacked by the Russian Army. The reason for the unrest in Baku was the people's desire to return to their true religious and cultural background. This is something that both the Soviet Union and the Western bloc have tried to ignore, hence their efforts to overshadow this clear fact by propounding imaginary reasons and motives.

The bloody clashes between the Armenians and the Muslims, and the unity of the two Azerbaijans as an independent and nationalistic country, were among the factors to which the uprising of the Soviet Azerbaijani people was attributed.

The pitiless massacre took place mainly in Baku. It was alleged that these so-called extensive clashes were between the Armenians and the Muslims; these clashes, however, took place in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. But the Azerbaijanis' unquestioned obedience to Islamic directives clearly manifests their inner feelings toward Islam.

First of all, admitting that Islamic revolutionary trends existed despite the years of communist domination over the people in this region would have been contrary to the Russians' ideological beliefs. Second, admitting the extensive influence of the so-called fundamentalists might have weakened the ruling system and the Russians' position in bilateral relations between the Kremlin and Tehran. This could have also harmed Gorbachev's glasnost in the eyes of the West.

From the very start, the West has also tried to portray the Islamic revolution as a limited and fleeting phenomenon. Its efforts have been aimed at distracting the uprising on the basis of their strategy in confronting these incidents.

The West would also use any weapon to prevent the balance in the Tehran-Moscow relations from tipping toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thus, the admission that millions of people had resurrected their values because of the emergence of the Islamic Revolution could naturally not have been in line with Washington's policy. On this basis, the reason for the West's support for the massacre of the Muslims in Soviet Azerbaijan becomes clear. Definitely, if this was not the case, the United States would have been more than willing to exacerbate the tension because this would have created a good opportunity to put pressure on the opponent in his own backyard and to continue to maintain its great influence in Europe. The extreme sensitivity of this issue lies in the fact that the White House chose to sacrifice this opportunity and side with the Russians in the massacre of Muslims.

The unrest in Dushanbe is also being attributed to the unrest between the Armenians and the Muslims. But the repetitive scenario of attributing such incidents to inter-ethnic issues is gradually losing its effectiveness. If such incidents take place again in other Muslim-inhabited areas in the Soviet Union, however, the Russians and the West will once again seek to attribute them to the presence of Armenians, nationalism, and so on.

But what the (Farsi-speaking) people of Dushanbe have to say, like what the Azerbaijanis had to say, is very clear. They too want their past—a past which is today facing a basic reform.

The Islamic Revolution will continue to gather its children around pure Muhammedan Islam. The world system is approaching a time when it will be experiencing a change. Arrogance only sees one side of the coin. The other side of the coin is the reinvigoration of Islam. The bells have started to toll and the world will witness a change which will take place sooner or later.

Editorial Comments on Settlement of Soviet Jews

NC0203143490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Soviet Condemnation of Zionists: Only Words"]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov has voiced his government's opposition to the settlement of Russian Jews in the West Bank by the Zionist regime.

Talking to reporters in the Philippines capital of Manila last Wednesday Gerasimov termed the Zionist regime's settlement policy in the West Bank a violation of the Geneva Convention.

The rather scattered protests of the Islamic countries against the Zionist move has not been able to block the immigration and hence the settlement of the Russian Jews in the occupied Muslim lands.

Meanwhile, the Soviet officials too have not gone beyond expressing regret and verbal condemnation of the outrageous Zionist move that hurts the sensibility of any conscientious person. The settlement of the Jewish immigrants in the lands usurped by force is yet another proof of the bullying nature of the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime.

But as far as the Soviets are concerned they could have simply stopped the emigration of their Jewish subjects if they were sincere in their condemnation of the Zionist policy. To curb moves that are in explicit violation of international laws and the rights of other nations, especially those under foreign military occupation is a commendable move. Soviets would have bought themselves accolades by not cooperating with Zionists. But, turning a blind eye to the flow of emigrants whom they know will be settled they are smugly content to condemn the Zionists verbally. It is indeed ironical!

The Kremlin is well aware of where hundreds of their Jewish emigrants have been already settled by Tel Aviv. It is said that the Zionist state is pushing for raising the number of such settlers to 500,000 over the next few years.

Now given the structure of power in the Zionist state such a number will only be a winning card and point of strength for the extremist Zionists in Israel, boosting them in their aggressive position.

Meanwhile Iran's Foreign Ministry has not yet reacted towards this sad episode of forced settlement in occupied Muslim territories in the way expected.

It is not known for what reason the Foreign Ministry has not yet condemned the Zionist settlement policy in an official statement. And why has the ministry failed to lodge a complaint with Moscow over the Soviet policy toward the issue? Given the friendly ties existing

between the two capitals, it is highly probable that Moscow would have reacted positively to a word of advice from Tehran.

The issue of Palestine is by far still the single most important issue of the whole Islamic sphere.

Iran and other Muslim nations can certainly do a lot in a thoroughly coordinated diplomatic move by exerting necessary pressures on those involved to curb the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

Paper Urges Kuwait To Release Shiite Prisoners

LD0403180890 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 4 IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES in an editorial to appear in its Monday's [5 March] issue said the arrest and torture of Muslims by the Kuwaiti Government was not in its interest.

"The arrested Muslims should be immediately released as they are innocent and they have committed no crimes. Kuwait should listen to the voice of conscience and act accordingly," the daily said.

It was referring to a report released by the London-based human rights organization on the arrest by the Kuwaiti Government of 15 Shiite Muslims including prominent religious personalities. According the report, the arrested group are not only being kept in prison without trial but are also being tortured by the Kuwaiti security forces, with one threatened to be deported to Saudi Arabia. The daily also advised the Kuwaiti rulers "to keep their fingers on the pulse of changing times."

As far as Iran is concerned, no matter if the victim is Shiite or Sunni, or even non-Muslim, the Islamic Republic is always on the side of the oppressed, it said.

Involvement in Pakistan Politician's Murder Denied

LD0403145190 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 4, IRNA—The Islamic Republic today refuted allegations of its involvement in the murder of a Pakistani opposition leader, Haqnawaz Jhangoi. The Iranian Embassy in a statement issued here Sunday, rejected as 'pure fabrication' a claim raised by Senator Sami' ul-Haq that Iran was involved in the murder of the Sahaba Corps leader.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is seriously against terrorism and condemns all such acts as anti-Islamic, anti-social and anti-moral," said the statement.

The Pakistani senator, member of the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad, the alliance of opposition parties in a press conference Thursday accused Iran's consul-general 'Ali Qomi and head of the Iranian cultural house in Lahore Ganji-Dust of complicity in the murder. Earlier some theologians sympathetic to Haqnawaz had made similar charges against the Islamic Republic.

Editorial Terms Indian-Pakistani Dispute 'Tragic'

NC0203150690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Indo-Pak War a Tragedy for Third World"]

[Text] Tensions in Kashmir have escalated in recent months and weeks beyond all bounds of sanity. Both India and Pakistan seem to have got their feet well into the rumpus and let us hope they will not be tragically entangled to the point of war. India recently has turned down a recent offer for talks on the issue from Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto saying that they will be fruitless so long as Pakistan continues to support what it calls "Muslim extremists or fundamentalists" in Kashmir.

Pakistan and India have had less than a smooth relationship from the time Pakistan emerged as a separate state. In recent months there were changes visible again in this rather erratic relationship. Both have got into a position which may be seen as a shift from a "cold war" to a more touchy and dangerous "no-war, no-peace" situation.

What is most unfortunate in all this is that the two regional powers have for long now got into a mini-arms race spurred by fear of each other. Not one of the countries can afford the massive arms bills. And then one has to remember that both have huge populations, living sub-standard lives, who need caring for and whose living standards need to be raised to at least tolerable levels.

Not content with an arms race both nations are ambitiously, if blindly, grouping towards becoming nuclear powers. One very definite consequence of this can only be even greater hardships, deprivations and burdens on their long-suffering peoples. Another sinister development is the polarization of Pakistan, China, and America on one side as against India, the Soviet Union, and South Asia on the other, a development serving to exacerbate and give the long simmering tensions a newer, wider and more diabolical turn.

India and Pakistan have a continuous history of internal instability engendered by sectarian, tribal, party and religious conflicts within leading to untrammeled violence and deaths. Hence the tendency for the politicians is to seek to divert the attention of their peoples to a convenient "enemy" outside, as a focus and channel for their pent-up frustrations and to forge a temporary unity among their people at this level.

At present Kashmir appears to be an ideally troubled fishing ground for both India and Pakistan. Will it make sense for them to embroil themselves in a tragically senseless conflict stemming from here?

The Kashmir issue at this time has to be looked at in the context of larger world events and sweeping changes in

which people en masse have played a vital role. As many as 400,000 Muslim Kashmiris staged demonstrations recently, one of the largest ever in this part of the world in recent times. Hence New Delhi has before it a very complex problem—it will have to reckon with the fact of peoples' power that is sweeping across the world and cannot get away with mere suppression.

With all the difficulties in Kashmir, it is hoped nevertheless that both these giant Third World powers will show the greatest possible self-restraint and do all they can to have the issues at hand settled peacefully.

The war between the two countries at this juncture can turn out to be a tragic disaster for the Third World.

Lebanon's Al-Husayni Warns of 'Israeli Plot'

NC0203190490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Feb 90 pp 1, 7

[Reza Donyadideh report]

[Text] Beirut—"All military means should be used to prevent military victory of Michel 'Awn in East Beirut," Lebanese Parliamentary Speaker Husayn al-Husayni said in an exclusive interview with TEHRAN TIMES.

Speaking to the TEHRAN TIMES in Beirut al-Husayni, a Shiite Muslim said 'Awn's victory over Lebanese Forces (LF) Leader Samir Ja'ja' would lead to the total disintegration of Lebanon, which is an Israeli plot.

According to Lebanon's constitution, parliament speaker is a Shiite Muslim, the prime minister a Sunni, and the president a Maronite Christian.

Al-Husayni warned that the Zionist regime would completely annex southern Lebanon if 'Awn achieves military victory, adding that all military means should be used to prevent this from happening.

Al-Husayni stressed that all the progressive Arab governments, and particularly Syria, should provide the necessary assistance to prevent 'Awn from achieving victory.

"The rest of the Arab governments will also be forced to help us in this task because they very well know that the plot to dismember Lebanon threatens and endangers the very political future of the country," said the Lebanese parliamentary chief.

Referring to the recent plan for migration of East European Jews to Israel and recent statements of Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir promising the establishment of a "greater Israel" to the Jews of the world, he said all this clearly indicates the grave Israeli threat against the entire Middle East region.

Southern Gulf States Can Play 'Positive Role'

LD2402233190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On Friday, the foreign minister of Oman left Tehran after three days of talks with our country's political officials. During the trip, the special envoy of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] met and conferred with the president, the Majles speaker, and our country's foreign minister.

In the meeting with the president, the Omani foreign minister delivered a report about the 10th conference of GCC countries' leaders. The last meeting of the leaders of six Persian Gulf Arab countries was held in Muscat toward the end of the month of Azar [ending 20 Dec 1989]. In the resolution issued at the end of the 10th summit, the member countries of the Council, that is, UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, announced that they were grateful for the meditation efforts of the UN secretary general and that they approved of the ongoing efforts of achieving a just and lasting resolution of Iraq's war against Iran.

The stance taken by GCC leaders was interpreted as a kind of moving away from previous stances and a tangible move toward reality. In addition, since strengthening peace and the establishment of complete calm in the Persian Gulf region is to the advantage of all the region's countries, the current chair of the council, which is currently Oman, was asked to begin efforts to speed up the peace process in the region. And within that framework, the Omani foreign minister went to Baghdad some time ago and held talks with officials of the Ba'th regime.

In pursuing his mission in Tehran the Omani foreign minister not only held some talks about the manner in which the peace process may be speeded up, but also held discussions with our country's political authorities on the important subject of expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran; something which is desired by the southern Persian Gulf countries.

In the meeting with our country's president, the Omani foreign minister expressed the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will be a source of stability and security in the region at the current juncture and would give reality to the expansion of ties between Persian Gulf countries.

Our country's sincere cooperation with the UN secretary general toward the implementation of Resolution 598 and the realization of the secretary general's implementational proposals have played a considerable role in the establishment of the current stability and security in the region.

Nonetheless, the important issue in this midst—something which has at times caused some anxiety—is the lack of cooperation of the Iraqi regime with these peace-seeking efforts. That regime's various excuses for delaying the implementation of the resolution is itself the most telling evidence of Baghdad's irresponsible policies and their tendency toward disrupting the region's stability and security. The Islamic Republic of Iran has previously informed its friends on the other side of the Persian Gulf of this fact in an official statement

issued in response to the resolution of the 10th GCC sumnit. In that statement, our country's Foreign Ministry announced that the attitude of the GCC leaders had not been even-handed.

For this reason, in the view of our country, the southern Persian Gulf countries can play a positive role in the realization of peace in the region on the condition that they see realities as they are and use the various levers at their disposal toward the resolution of disagreements and the removal of obstacles.

At any rate, just as the Omani foreign minister and the GCC special envoy heard in Tehran from our country's political authorities, the Islamic Republic of Iran, because of its extensive interests in the Persian Gulf region, desires the expansion of ties with all the region's countries in the framework of mutual interest, friendship, and good-neighborliness. Those ties can take a collective or an individual form with southern Persian Gulf countries. And they can be realized in the form of extensive security and or economic-political cooperation.

Official Says Saudi Arabia Obstructs Pilgrimage

LD2102112890 Tehran IRNA in English 2005 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Semnan, Feb. 20 IRNA—The Saudi Government prevents Iranian Muslims from performing the hajj pilgrimage, said head of the Hajj and Endowments Organization Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Emami-Jamarani today.

"We are eager to perform the hajj as we did in the previous years," he said, and hoped Riyadh would provide necessary conditions for the great annual gathering at Islam's most sacred site.

Hoj. Jamarani said if Saudi Arabia continues to obstruct the Iranian faithful as it has done over the past two years, it will be held accountable to world Muslims. Hajj should be performed in its true spirit, in the tradition of prophet Abraham and prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them), he made it clear.

The holy Ka'ba in Mecca is the centre of the obligatory pilgrimage which a Muslim must perform once in a lifetime, provided he or she affords the means for the journey. But it was near the same sacred site—where the shedding of even an animal's blood is divinely prohibited—that Saudi forces slaughtered 400 pilgrims, mostly Iranian, when they opened fire on a peaceful pilgrim rally seeking "deliverance from infidels".

Hoj. Jamarani, turning to the international Quran recitation contest, said it is to be held in Tehran shortly. Competitors from 40 countries have so far announced readiness to participate in the contest, he added.

He said thousands of volumes of the holy Quran including one thousand copies of the Turkish translation of the holy book, have been sent for Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan at their request.

Elsewhere, Jamarani said that extension work has been completed at the shrine of Hadhrat Ruqaiyyah [name as received]—the daughter of Imam Husayn—in Damascus, and the mausoleum will soon be officially inaugurated.

Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Spain

WA0603143090

For reportage on the visit by Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi, including reports on his talks with Spanish Foreign Minister Fernandez-Ordonez, please see the Spain section of the 6 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Editorial on Implementation of Five-Year Plan

NC0103200990 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Feb 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial by Habib 'Askar-Owladi: "The Implementation of the Five-Year Plan and Expectations"]

[Excerpts] As had been anticipated, our esteemed president has presented the 1990-91 budget to the Islamic Majles. He explained the budget and the ways in which it will be implemented on the basis of the Five-Year Plan. He made a detailed speech on moving toward development and reconstruction and putting the wheels of production in the country into motion. [passage omitted]

To begin with, it must be mentioned that the next year should be one of dynamism and endeavor for all. A new front has been opened for the practical defense of the values of Islam, the revolution, and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This front is the arena for reconstruction and construction on the basis of the plan for economic, social, and cultural reconstruction.

We should prove to the people of the world that a system based on the pure style of Muhammad, peace be upon him and his scion, is not only able to undertake reconstruction but can also prove an example to the world in embarking on construction without dependence on others. [passage omitted]

Our people have passed the test in the victory of the Islamic revolution and in their holy defense. If the mass media, especially the newspapers, focus on the magnitude of the people's obligations and the sensitivity of the conditions without adopting stances of partiality and prejudice, and if they reflect the various aspects of the topic and its many implications in a lucid manner, our people will definitely be able to grapple with any problems that may arise.

We are able to present a model of reconstruction based on Islamic tenets to the world, just as our imam, may his

soul be sanctified, made the world comprehend that it is possible to draw on the human resources of the country, without dependence on foreign powers, and to forge a system on the basis of belief in God and the essence of Islam. He also made the world realize that with this confidence in the people we can take the holy defense of our revolution against the onslaught of the world powers to the peak of success.

On the reconstruction plane, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, production industry, banking, customs, and insurance institutions are in the forefront. Therefore all employees, officials, and ministers who are on the front-lines should act with the same vigilance, readiness, and indefatigable efforts as our God-seeking combatants did on the battlefronts. In this way they will be able to elicit the people's confidence in general, and, with the sincere mobilization of the people, the energy for unprecedented reconstruction and construction befitting our revolution will be generated.

It goes without saying that the senior and junior employees of the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran should tighten their belts more than ever before in order to carry out such sacred and crucial obligations. They should display earnestness and perseverance more than at any other time in the revolution so that the Almighty's blessings and success may be showered on them. The task at hand is so momentous that, through all-encompassing efforts and extensive industriousness, this stage will also be successfully concluded. God willing, it will be so.

PTT Minister Discusses Projects

NC0203102490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] The 1,000-number telephone center of Kiashahr District in Gilan Province became operational yesterday afternoon in the presence of Mr. Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph, and telephone [PTT].

The Central News Unit reports that more than 1.2 billion rials of credit was used to install and to operate this center's telecommunications equipment which can be expanded up to 5,000 telephone numbers.

PTT Minister Gharazi spoke to a Central News Unit correspondent in Rasht at the end of this ceremony. Discussing the activities of the ministry during the Five-Year Plan for economic, social, and cultural development, he stated: During this program 10,000 villages will be linked with the country's telecommunications network and more than 400,000 new telephone numbers will be given to new subscribers annually. The number of telephone numbers to be given to the people will be twice the current number.

Speaking about the expansion of international telecommunications, the PTT minister said: We now have 1,000 international channels and by the end of the coming year [Iranian year ending 20 March 1991], this number will be increased to 5,000 channels. He added: Currently, 75 percent of the digital switches for the digitalization of the microwave system, as well as the cables and platforms for ground satellite stations are being manufactured by the country's telecommunications industries. This quantity will be increased to 85 percent in the Five-Year Plan.

Central Satellite Station Inaugurated 12 Feb

NC2202152290 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 13 Feb 90 p 3

[Excerpts] The central satellite station of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran was inaugurated by First Vice President Dr. Habibi yesterday afternoon [12 February].

Our correspondent reports that Mr. Razavi, vice president and secretary general of the State Administrative and Employment Organization; Hojjat ol-Eslam Shahidi, chairman of the Majles Cultural and Guidance Committee; Mohammad Hashemi, head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran; deputies and advisers of the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone and the Plan and Budget Organization; and officials of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran were also present at the ceremony. In his speech, the first vice president referred to the role of radio and television in educating and informing the public. He said: The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran shoulders a heavy responsibility, and since all its programs are visual [as published], naturally the public absorbs the material much better.

He then went on to compare the programs of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the programs of other countries. He stated: In view of its heavy responsibility, television plays a sensitive part, not only as far as the production of programs is concerned, but also as far as the psychology of its viewers is concerned. [passage omitted]

In continuation of his remarks, Mr. Habibi pointed to the need for news coverage to extend to all the border areas and said: I hope that the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be able to achieve this during the Five-Year Plan. [passage omitted]

The report also states that during this ceremony Technical Deputy Engineer Tabeshian and Engineer Kian, satellite expert of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reported on the organization's satellite projects.

Eng. Tabeshian said: The satellite building, which cost more than 423 million rials, covers an area of 340 square meters.

He added: During the Five-Year Plan 1,350 satellite stations are to be set up in various parts of the country. Therefore, we have to construct 350 such stations each year. But if the necessary credits and facilities are available, this number can be increased to 500.

In conclusion, Mr. Tabeshian pointed to the importance of using and expanding the ground station.

Referring to the satellite station of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Eng. Kian said: This center has four satellite transmitters which can transmit the programs of the first and second television networks, as well as 16 voice programs of the domestic and foreign services, to all the radio and television transmitters in the country.

He added: With the operation of this center, 4 million people in the villages will be able to receive the programs of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran via 300 satellite receivers. Also, this satellite station is equipped to transmit the programs of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to transmitters—for both domestic and foreign services—throughout the country.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Kian said: Once the satellite center becomes operational, neighboring countries will also be able to receive the programs of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran by installing the necessary satellite receiver equipment.

*Report on Proceedings of 28 Jan Majles Session

90OI0165A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] The Majles held a session yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding and continued with Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat presiding. Following recitations from the Koran, Messrs. Aminlu, the representative of Shabestar, and Danesh, the representative of Masjed-e Soleyman, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then, the representatives' memos to the country's executive officials were read, and the Majles went into session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was the report on the first round of discussions on the bill permitting the payment of wages to students who serve in the executive organizations as trainees. The general points of the bill were ratified by the representatives.

The second item on the agenda was the urgency one motion proposal on the procedures to prevent the distortion of the statements and writings of the mam. The urgency one motion proposal was ratified by the representatives.

The next item on the agenda was the report on the second round of discussions on a proposal to attach two notes to Article 32 of the implemental bylaws of the law amending the legislative bill on the distribution and revitalization of lands in the Islamic Republic of Iran ratified on 31/2/1359 [21 May 1980], which was ratified.

The fourth item on the agenda was the report on the first round of discussions on the proposal to amend the national accounting law, which was ratified by the representatives.

The last item on the agenda was the request of a number of representatives to the health committee in regard to referring to the legislative proposal on the establishment of the medical board of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This request was ratified.

Below you shall read the speeches of the pre-agenda speakers, the representatives' memos, and the details of the discussions.

Hasan Aminlu, the Representative of the People of Shabestar

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Dr. Hasan Aminlu, from the Shabestar electoral district. Sending his greetings to the pure soul of the founder of the Islamic Republic and the grand leader, he pointed out: We have left behind 11 years of revolution with all its ups and downs, victories and defeats, and sweet and bitter memories, and during this period we have lost many notable people, such as Ayatollah Beheshti and Professor Motahhari. But most unpleasant is the loss of the great leader of the Islamic world and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Now we are commemorating the 12th anniversary of the Islamic revolution while the sorrow over the loss of our beloved imam weighs heavily on our hearts, and the loss of his beloved being is strongly felt. But we thank God that a competent individual, a descendent of the Prophet and a student of the imam, is the leader of the nation and is a consolation for our pain.

Referring to the recent issues in Soviet Azerbaijan, he said: The declaration of marshall law, the Red Army's violent treatment of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, and the killing and wounding of a large number of innocent Muslims in Baku and other cities of Soviet Azerbaijan, which have certainly broken the hearts of most Muslims in the world, are not issues that can be simply and indifferently set aside. The conspiracies of the global oppressor have brought about another sad tragedy, a conspiracy alongside and on the same level as the issues of Lebanon and Palestine, the imposed war of Iraq on Iran and hundreds of other tragedies, the mere mention of which would make a long speech. All these tragedies are scenarios written and directed by the global oppressor, headed by the criminal United States. Behind the events in Soviet Azerbaijan we see the filthy hands and the ugly face of the United States. Directly or indirectly and by using its agents and propaganda bugles, the United States gives false impressions. By speaking of ethnic issues such as the differences between the Azerbaijanis and Armenians and sometimes by expressing views such as the union of northern and southern Azerbaijan and dozens of other false views, it sometimes causes the Soviet leaders to make mistakes in judgment. Through endorsements and denials, it diverts the issue from its actual course, and it is most unfortunate that we see the Soviet leader is also influenced by it, which reminds us of the statement of the imam, who said: "The United States is also playing with the Soviet Union."

The perestroika and glasnost of Mr. Gorbachev created a climate of optimism and brought the hope to humanity that after so many years gradually the chains of intellectual slavery would be broken. Unfortunately, the conspiracies of the oppressors turned this climate of optimism into one of despair and brought perestroika under question. While we value our political and economic relations with the Soviet Union, we find it pertinent to mention that, as the saying goes, "Losses become gains no matter where you stop them." Before perestroika is lost completely, Mr. Gorbachev must issue orders to lift marshall law in Soviet Azerbaijan. The Muslim people of Azerbaijan who want nothing but Islam and freedom should not be treated violently, and no longer should the blood of a number of innocent people be spilled.

Continuing his speech, the speaker added: We are most sorry for the Soviet leadership's discrimination among various ethnic groups. The question is, what is the difference between the events in Lithuania and Estonia and those in Soviet Azerbaijan. In the former case, Mr. Gorbachev makes a personal visit and in the latter case, sends the Red Army to suppress them. Perhaps Mr. Gorbachev is under the influence of the analysis of the criminal United States in this case and believes that one is political and the other ethnic. Oh God, turn the tricks of the tricksters against themselves, release humanity from the evil of the great Satan, and protect all humanity, particularly the Muslims, from the conspiracies of the great Satan.

Concerning the Five-Year Plan, Mr. Karrubi said: With the help of God, the first economic, social, and cultural plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran was ratified in numerous sessions by the representatives of the Majles. The efforts of the government of Mr. Musavi and His Honor Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in regard to devising the first plan and offering it to the Majles warrant much gratitude. And the efforts made by the special committees of the Majles in discussing and studying the bill in numerous sessions are undeniable. Finally, the plan is the result of the work and labor of a large number of people in the government and in the Majles and of the experts, spending hours working on it, taking into consideration the needs of the country and its existing resources and potential. It has been written and ratified. Now, we all hope and also expect that the government of His Honor Hashemi-Rafsanjani will implement the Five-Year Plan in accordance with the timetable stated in the law by employing the capability and forces of the executive organizations and using all the existing potential in the country so that all of its goals are achieved by the end of the plan. In this regard, we request that all classes help the government in implementing the plan. Of course, the signs of such a movement have already been observed in the government as well as the support of the nation, which ignites a ray of hope in our hearts.

The representative of the people of Shabestar added: On a visit to Eastern Azerbaijan recently made by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, he witnessed first hand the problems and backwardness of the province and also issued favorable, praiseworthy instructions. I should add that the Province of Azerbaijan was a target of the disfavor of the tyrant. The conditions resulting from the war over the past 10 years and after the revolution also resulted in no significant steps being taken to eradicate deprivation in that province. An examination of the available statistics reveals that this province has lower than average standards existing in many respects in terms of resources, and even in some areas such as literacy, industry, employment, mines, and roads, it is at the bottom, but first in terms of providing migrants. Now, considering the goals of the Five-Year Plan, we expect that by ratifying and allocating the necessary funds, special attention will be paid to eradicating deprivation from this province, so that at the end of the Five-Year Plan it shall enjoy at least the conditions in the thriving provinces of today. We expect more attention, especially in the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] budget soon to be offered to the Majles, which is in some ways the start of the five-year plan.

Mr. Aminlu pointed out: With the end of the imposed war and the ratification of the Five-Year Plan, conditions are ripe for the reconstruction of the country, economic advancement, and the increase in general revenues. Certainly the most important factors in increasing the general revenues are to raise the level of production and create more added value, which depend on the three factors of initial investment, work, and technology. In regard to the factor of investments, we must be thankful that Iran is rich and has potential in terms of underground resources and competent manpower. In regard to the factor of work as well, there is a great deal of wasted capacity in our country, which when used can both increase production and prevent unemployment through creating jobs. In the present age, the most important factor in the economic blossoming of our country is technology. Technology, like a living being, goes through birth, growth, productivity, old age, wear and tear, and death. The governments that export industry would, for the most part, like to export their out-of-date industries in their final stages of profitability.

We ask the government officials to pay more attention to this matter and not to go after just any kind of technology which promises quick production and revenue increases, but to choose as best they can the kind of technology that is increasing and will give a high yield. Secondly, along with the import of technology, they should also train expert forces for it, because technology without trained experts from our own country will result in nothing less than increasing dependency. Neither the country nor the revolution can tolerate being dependent once again. The blood of thousands of martyrs has been spent for the severance of dependency. Thirdly, along with technology, research must be valued.

All countries, even some of the Third World countries which have recently become economically advanced, have placed great value on research. Unfortunately, our country in the past and at the present has been behind in research, both in the government sector and the private

sector. Even in the Five-Year Plan, despite the small increase in the budget for research, it has not been dealt with favorably and ideally.

Jahanshah Danesh, Representative of the People Masjed-e Soleyman

Mr. Danesh, the representative of the people of Masjed-e Soleyman, was the second and last pre-agenda speaker. First, in a warning to the Soviet leader, he said:

The uprising of the people of Azerbaijan is an earthquake stemming from divine secret grace. The world and humanity today must not take the issue lightly. The politicians of the world must know that the value of human beings before God is above their policies and treason. "The hand of God is above all else."

Then in connection with the 10 days of Fajr [dawn] of the Islamic revolution, he said: We are approaching 22 Bahman [11 February], the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution of the brave and courageous people of Iran. We are living in very sensitive times, and more than any other time we need peace and stability, because to lose the opportunity under the conditions that have been announced as the decade of reconstruction will be very expensive. We are responsible to do our duty, and now divine law must be the standard. Rapid movement towards the attainment of the goals within the framework of an Islamic system, which the savior judge has foretold, requires understanding, trust, and the closeness of the hearts of the sincere pioneers of the revolution.

The speaker then added: The charter of brotherhood and the will of the imam following the path of his ancestor, the Prophet of God, show the way, which is mandatory obedience of and allegiance to the leader, consultation, coordination, kindness, compassion, and the necessary unison. I thank the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps for having made every effort to train very competent cadres. Those who imagine our border guards in the air, sea, and land are negligent are wrong. I ask the Baktiari tribes, those lion-men of the Zagros Mountains, to continue participating in mobilization and combative training. You brave tribesmen know well that Saddam is a beast who must only be finished with a bullet. Then, listen for the orders of the leader. At the present, an economic delegation from West Germany is visiting our Islamic homeland. It is proper that in the reconstruction of the country they first engage in completing the important Bushehr project, and we expect the officials not to grant a new project to that country until the situation of that important project, which has cost more than five billion DM, is clarified. I ask the 145 sympathetic representatives of the oppressed areas of the country to instantly demand of the voice and vision that the deprivation of the regions of the country, along with the views of the people and the officials of those cities, be analyzed and shown in detail so that the officials of the country, especially the distinguished ministers, place visiting the deprived regions at the top of their agendas. For instance, it should be observed that in Masjed-e Soleyman and Haftgel, most families, in order not to be poisoned by the abundant amount of nonstandard gases around their homes, must set the gases on fire in order to be safe, and children are forced to play on the hot asphalt of Khuzestan in the summer because there are no athletic facilities.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Danesh added: The workers request of the beloved president that the training and technical resources of the country be expanded. They insist on proper projects which are vital. If the Muslim workers are not engaged in continuous technical training, they shall certainly be left at the lowest level in terms of the acquisition of knowledge. Creativity and discovery come about through the combination of knowledge and skill, and gaining the newest technical knowledge is possible with training on a larger scale in order to compete with the pioneers of technology in the world.

I ask of the assembly to determine the interests of the country not to leave the Muslim worker unprotected. The workers say that they want to be included in the national employment law. We have 12 million workers who are the safeguards of the revolution. In our regime, there is still no special place for the employment sector. Hence, I request of the representatives of the nation and the speaker of the Majles that the budget and the technical training resources of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs be increased several-fold as proof that the regime of the Islamic Republic, on the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, supports the hard-working Muslim workers and follows the leader.

In his speech, Mr. Danesh also spoke about the problems of his constituency, Haftgel, and said: The large, old, deprived district of Haftgel, which is central to five cities in the Province of Khuzestan, continues to have insurmountable problems, to which I hope the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani will pay particular attention. The wishes of the people of Haftgel are announced to the officials as follows: 1 Urbanization. 2 Drinking water. 3 Standard natural gas lines. 4 Repair and asphalting of the main Ahvaz-Haftgel road to Izeh. 5 Independence of the departments under the supervision of the Province. 6 A 50-bed hospital.

In conclusion, I invite all the people of Masjed-e Soleyman and all the brave Bakhtiari people to serve my constituency and hope that they will help their brothers and sisters in the reconstruction of city, rural, and tribal areas.

Statements of Mr. Karrubi

In his speech, Mr. Karrubi congratulated all Muslims on the birthday of the fifth shining star of the imamate, his holiness Imam Baqer, and expressed hope that, inspired by the life of this innocent imam, our steadfast and resisting nation will continue its path, which is the path of the imams and the prophets of God, proudly and victoriously in order to achieve and implement the laws

of God and the government of God on earth, God willing, and to achieve their sacred goals with effort and seriousness.

The speaker of the Majles then expressed thanks to the airline security guards, the Guards Corps, and the airline pilot for neutralizing the conspiracy of the hypocrites and said:

The beloved brothers of the Guards Corps and the pilot of the plane were able to act most intelligently and decisively against this mysterious conspiracy of the hypocrites, the puppet mercenaries of the foreigners. We notify the representatives of human rights, the United Nations and the groups they have in Iran, to recognize the filthy, dirty, terrorist nature of the hypocrites.

Detail of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the report on the first round of discussions of the Plan and Budget Committee concerning the rejection of the bill permitting payment of wages to students serving in the executive organizations as trainees.

About the bill, Messrs. Sheybani, Sadeqi-Azad, Behzadian, Najafqoli Habibi, and Taslimi spoke in opposition and Messrs. Rahbari, 'Ala' Movahhedi-Saveji, Ja'fari, and Harati in support of the rejection. Then the bill was put to a vote and ratified.

The single article states: All ministries, organizations, government and government-affiliated establishments, as well as organizations subject to the law, provided they are mentioned by name, are permitted to take steps to pay wages to students serving as trainees from the funds of the related organization.

The Second Item on the Agenda

The second item on the agenda was the legislative proposal on the procedures to prevent the distortion of the statements and writings of the imam, which was offered to the Majles with an urgency one motion.

Mr. Bayat (Explanation of the Proposal)

In explaining this proposal, Mr. Asadollah Bayat said: The representatives are aware that in connection with the divine-political will of the imam, which is one of our richest sources of political ideology and policy today and is the future of our revolutionary society, most unfortunately, some, whether intentionally or mistakenly, have engaged in a series of distortions. As the representative of the people and showing its devotion to the sacred position of the imam, the Majles wrote a letter asking his beloved son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Ahmad Khomeyni, as the head of the institution, to deal with the oral and spiritual distortions that take place. Haj Ahmad Khomeyni, in response to the letter of the representatives of the Majles, asked the Majles to pass a law in connection with such distortions, so that from here on individuals would not make the mistake of altering words in order to achieve their political ends and would not use the statements of the imam as playthings. Most fortunately, this issue was raised and also discussed by the board of directors. It was decided that a proposal would be prepared in which those who engage in distortions would anticipate certain punishment in terms of Islamic penal regulations. Now, this proposal has been prepared, and we request its ratification with an urgency one motion.

He then said: We did not say urgency two motion, because with urgency one motion, the proposal will go to the committee and will be studied fully and more quickly.

Mr. 'Abbasi (Opposing Urgency One Motion)

In opposition to urgency one motion of the proposal, Mr. 'Abbasi said: The will of the imam is respected by everyone, and violation of it is not permitted. Hence, there is no doubt that false interpretation might occur by mistake. Therefore, this issue must be handled with particular care. Even some of these mistakes of displacing words might happen.

He then added: This proposal must be discussed normally in the committee in order that it be looked at thoroughly. Even the groups that intend to distort or misinterpret should be identified and studied. On the other hand, groups that have no evil intentions must be identified. It is possible for a group with good intentions that follows the imam to make a mistake or change a word. They should not receive the same punishment as those with ill intentions. This is contrary to the fairness and justice and the views of the imam himself.

Is it reasonable to determine punishment with urgency one motion? What kinds of punishment do the gentlemen want to determine with an urgency one motion—prison, fine, lashes, suspension, temporary dismissal, permanent dismissal? The issue is particularly complex, and there is talk of punishment without even any talk of warning or reprimand.

Mr. 'Abbasi added in conclusion: From the viewpoint of the internal bylaws of the Majles or any other law, it is not proper to discuss the law of punishment with an urgency one motion.

Mr. Majid Ansari (Supporting Urgency One Motion)

Mr. Majid Ansari spoke in support of the urgency one motion and said: The law on the procedures to protect the memory, name, and works of the imam was ratified some time ago in the Majles. Unfortunately, there was an oversight in that proposal in connection with the violators. No punishment was anticipated in dealing with the words of the imam, in dealing with the statements of the imam. Yesterday, in the presence of the members of the Plan and Budget Committee, we visited the institute for the preservation and keeping of the works of the imam. There they saw that in comparing several books in which the statements of the imam were printed, there were about 6,800 mistakes, some of which were ones of total

omission. Suppose that tomorrow books are just going to be printed and articles written or even in the tapes some parts are going to be omitted so that the speeches of the imam are distorted. We are at the beginning of the work, and not much time has passed since the imam passed away. If the Majles, the government and other cultural organizations, and the office of the imam, as well as all the officials, fail to protect and preserve these words, it will be very difficult for those in the future to prove whether this treasure was the words of the imam or whether or not it was distorted. Hence, the proposal was prepared. Some of the brothers thought that the proposal should be offered with an urgency two motion. But, since it was possible that with an urgency two motion the proposal might not be properly thought through, an urgency one motion was suggested so that it would be studied in the judicial committee ahead of schedule.

In conclusion, Mr. Majid Ansari added: We have no special group or individual in mind. Anyone, any newspaper, any writer, any speaker or any publisher in the country who wants to, God forbid, intentionally or through negligence, distort the words and work of the imam must be dealt with. If it is not intentional, it should be dealt with in one way, and the one who distorts intentionally requires another kind of treatment. I hope the honorable representatives who, thank God, are all lovers of religious guardianship, who love the imam and are sensitive in regard to every shining word of that superman of history, with their decisive vote, God willing, will eliminate the possibility of the distortion of the words of the imam.

The Third Item on the Agenda

The next item on the agenda was the report on the second round of discussions of the committee on agriculture in regard to the proposal to attach two notes to Article 32 of the implemental bylaws of the legislative bill to amend the legislative bill on the distribution and revitalization of lands in the Islamic Republic of Iran ratified on 31/2/1359 [21 May 1980] by the Council of the Revolution.

Note 1: From the date of the ratification of this law, concerning industrial and production workshops which have gone into operation and for which operation permits have been issued by the related ministries, the land transferred in the form of a lease will be transferred in a finalized form, provided the owner of the workshop wishes to do so.

Note 2: Every year the collected revenues from the sale of such lands shall be deposited in the general treasury, and from the funds in a special fund to be projected in the national budget law for this purpose, every year up to three billion rials will be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Agriculture to be spent exclusively on expenditures for the fundamental affairs of lands such as water drainage and leveling.

The single article and the notes were put to a vote and ratified.

The Fourth Item on the Agenda

The fourth item on the agenda was the report on the first round of discussions of the accounting committee regarding the proposal to amend the national accounting law.

The general points of the proposal were put to a vote and ratified.

The Last Item on the Agenda

The last item on the agenda was the request of a number of representatives in regard to referring the legislative proposal on the establishment of the medical board agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the health and welfare committee in accordance with Article 85 of the Constitution.

In regard to this request, Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji spoke in opposition and Dr. Shahrzad in support of it. Then this request was put to a vote and ratified.

The Majles shall have an open session tomorrow morning.

Memos of the Representatives to the Executive Officials of the Country

- Mr. Saddiqi, representative of Bonab and Molkan: To the minister of health, treatment, and medical education regarding serious measures to complete the Molkan medical emergencies center.
- Mr. Mohaqar, representative of Bojnurd: To the construction jihad minister on building the Garmeh-Ayur-Darq road; to the minister of health and treatment in regard to expediting the provision of woman physicians for the Bojnurd maternity hospital.
- Mr. Partow, representative of Khodabandeh and Qaydar: To the minister of the interior in regard to the elimination of the name of the tyrant from the city of Qaydar.
- Dr. Sheybani, representative of Tehran: To the minister of health and treatment, to correct the timetable for the classes in nursing and on the use of employment permits of students in nursing and medical assistant fields.
- Mr. Taha'i, representative of Tonkabon and Ramsar: To the first deputy of the president and the minister of economic affairs and finance, to expedite the provision of foreign currency to the Ministry of Commerce to import roofing materials and lumber.
- Mr. Mollazehi, representative of Iranshahr: To the minister of health and treatment, on the reasons for the improper treatment of emergency patients on the part of the officials of the Tarqeh Hospital of Tehran and their not being admitted.
- Mr. Seyyed Rasul Musavi, representative of Ahvaz: To the minister of petroleum, expediting gas-supplying activities in West Karun, Ahvaz.
- A group of representatives: A reminder to the minister of energy in accordance with Article 149 of the

internal bylaws of the Majles concerning the uncontrolled increase in the price of water and electricity for domestic consumption.

- A group of representatives: To the honorable Council of Guardians and the minister of interior in regard to delays and evasion in announcing the Tehran mid-term election results, and a request to expedite these results.
- Mr. Kazem Dinan, representative of Amol and Larijan: To the minister of commerce to provide essential goods for the villages of the city of Amol.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives in Kathmandu

BK0403003590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1842 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 3 (AFP)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Shahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived here Saturday [3 March] for an overnight stay before he is to head for Bhutan for talks on a stalled regional summit, officials said.

Mr. Yaqub Khan was welcomed by Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya and secretary general of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), K.K. Bhargava. He was to proceed to the Bhutanese capital Thimbu on Sunday to consult with King Jigme Singye Wangchuk and his Bhutanese couterpart Lyonpo Dawa Tsering on SAARC-related issues.

(Mr. Yaqub Khan is to arrive in Dhaka on Tuesday for a three-day official visit during which he will meet Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, officials in Dhaka said Saturday.

(He is also expected to hold talks with his Bangladesh counterpart, Anisul Islam Mahmud, on a stalled SAARC summit which was due to be held in Colombo last year, the officials said.)

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is the current chairperson of the regional body launched in Dhaka in 1985. SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Colombo was to be the venue of the fifth SAARC summit in 1989, but Sri Lanka had linked hosting the meet to the complete withdrawal of Indian troops from the island nation. New Delhi, which deployed troops on the island under a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka pact to help end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign, had agreed to complete the pullout by March, raising the prospect for convening the summit next month.

Government Accused of Torturing Detainees

BK0303135290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] About 1,200 doctors affiliated to the Nepal Medical Association have demanded a judicial inquiry into the reported torture of those arrested and detained in connection with the movement in favor of a multiparty system in the country. In a press release issued in Kathmandu, the association charged the government with using (?banned) bullets on unarmed citizens who took part in the movement and alleged that this resulted in serious injuries as well as killings of a large number of people.

The doctors demanded an end to the oppression of all professionals, including medical personnel. They also called for a political solution to the problem connected with the movement.

Writers, Artists Support Multiparty Movement

BK0503150590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 5 (AFP)—Writers and artists threw their support Monday [5 March] behind the current political movement for multiparty democracy in Nepal. Nepal's top writers, journalists and artists challenged the government of Prime Minister Marich Man Shrestha to end the crackdown on the movement and to release all those who have been detained. The call came in a statement released Monday.

Official have confirmed 12 deaths in police firings during demonstrations, and hundreds have been arrested since the banned Nepali Congress Party and the United Leftist Front kicked off the campaign on February 18.

Among those signing the statement were former home minister and chancellor of the Royal Nepal Academy, Kedar Man Vyethit, journalist and writer Keshav Raj Pindali, artists Uttam Nepali, Madan Krishsna Shrestha and Hari Bansha Acharya, in addition to some 40 distinguished cultural figures.

The statement urged the government to halt the alleged use of hollow-point bullets that have been banned worldwide since World War II. It also called for an independent inquiry into alleged police excesses, human rights violations, and what they described as the "genocide" committed by police against peaceful demonstrators in several districts.

The Paramedical Association of Nepal also issued a statement Monday expressing "shock and horror" at the scale of violence used by the police to suppress peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations. The association deplored the use of the banned bullets against demonstrators and it appealed to the government to reject force and to seek a solution through peaceful means.

A pro-Soviet communist leader, Mr. K.R. Verma, said in a statement Monday that the movement against Nepal's partyless panchayat system had widespead popular backing.

"This mass support to the movement has exposed as threadbare the panchayat claim that it has the people's mandate", Mr. Verma said.

Meanwhile, some 500 lawyers serving in Kathmandu's highest courts observed a more than hour-long silent protest in the Supreme Court compound, tying black ribbons around their arms and holding a placard reading: "We strongly protest the violation of human rights in Nepal."

Nepal Bar Association Chairman Basudev Dhungana said the peaceful protest was to express their resentment over the constant violations of human rights and freedom of speech in the country.

"We strongly protest against the seizure of newspapers, pre-printing censorship, and the torture of the political and student detainees," Mr. Dhungana said. He said 59 lawyers throughout Nepal had been arrested and that only four of them were released "after five day's detention without proper food and water."

Meanwhile, the government's chief spokesman, Radhe Shyam Bista, announced the release of 177 persons in 17 districts, including Kathmandu. Mr. Bista said "other political detainees, who were not involved in subversive activities, would be released in due course after preliminary examinations." The government freed 184 detainees Sunday. An official said it brought the total number released to more than 1,580 since the drive for the return to a multiparty system began.

However the Shreshtha government has kept up pressure to disrupt efforts by the combined political opposition to hold mass gatherings in the capital.

The government and the pro-democracy forces will face off March 9, when the opposition coalition of outlawed parties, students, leftists and democratic activists has planned a demonstration at which banners of the prohibited parties are to be displayed.

Bhutan

Pakistani Foreign Minister To Meet With King

BK0403164590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is arriving in the Bhutanese capital Thimpu this evening after an overnight stay in Kathmandu. He will hold talks with King Jigme Singye Wangchuk and Foreign Minister Dawa Tsering. It is expected that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit will be discussed during the talks. After his two-day stay in Bhutan, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will leave for Dhaka on Tuesday [6 March].

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan Condemns 'Brutal Force' in Kashmir

BK0503165290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that Pakistan will continue to raise its voice at all levels in order to awaken humanity's silent conscience on the atrocities being perpetrated in occupied Kashmir. Addressing a function of the Fifth Azad Kashmir Regiment at [placename indistinct] today, he said it is Pakistan's human and moral responsibility, and it will not lag behind. We are fully with the people of Kashmir in their struggle and will be with them always. The president said that the world must condemn the use of brutal force and must try to find a peaceful solution to the problem. Referring to the Kashmiri regiment, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that the nation has complete confidence in its Armed Forces since they are not only the protectors of the country's integrity and solidarity but are also a shining example and lasting symbol of national unity.

Joint Statement on Relations With USSR Issued

BK0503162790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Pakistan and the Soviet Union have expressed their desire to promote bilateral relations based on the principles of equality, justice, and mutual regard. This was stated in a joint statement issued simultaneously from Islamabad and Moscow today after the week-long visit of the Pakistani parliamentary delegation to the Soviet Union. The Pakistani delegation was led by National Assembly Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid. At the talks, both sides agreed that there are bright prospects for more fruitful contacts to promote mutual understanding and good neighborliness. They expressed the hope that the exchange of the parliamentary delegations would increase cooperation in technology, culture, education, and other fields. Both sides expressed deep concern over the continuous bloodshed in Afghanistan and stressed the need for a peaceful solution to this issue in order to enable the more than 3 million Afghan refugees now staying in Pakistan to return to their homes in safety and honor.

The Soviet Union appreciated Pakistan's efforts toward the release of the Soviet prisoners of war who were captured by the Afghan mujahidin during the Afghanistan war. The Pakistani parliamentary delegation assured the Soviet Union that Pakistan is ready for an immediate solution to this issue. The parliamentary delegation has since arrived in London.

President Meets Afghan Interim Government Leader

BK0503160190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] The president of the Afghan Interim Government, Professor Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, had a discussion with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today on the latest situation in Afghanistan and on various aspects of the Afghan issue. He thanked Pakistan for its continuous and full support of the stand of the Afghan people. He said the people of Afghanistan have decided to continue their struggle to win their freedom.

The president reaffirmed Pakistan's total support for a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan issue, as ever.

Australian Naval Chief Calls On President

BK0403112890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] The chief of staff of the Australian Navy, Vice Admiral M.W. Hudson, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on bilateral relations, particularly in the context of increased cooperation between the navies of the two countries. The president expressed appreciation for Australia's economic and political support to Pakistan. He also informed the Australian Navy chief about the situation in the region, especially the prevailing state of affairs in Indian-held Kashmir.

Teachers Boycott To Protest Denationalization

BK0303133090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1254 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Karachi, March 3 (AFP)—More than 25 thousand teachers at government and nationalised schools boycotted classes here Saturday [3 March] affecting some one million students, a Federation of School Teachers spokesman said.

Teachers were demanding the scrapping of a policy to de-nationalise schools announced by the government last year and an end to the alleged appointment of unqualified people to education posts because of political backing, he said, adding that "the strike was complete." Students in more than 1,000 schools in the city were prevented from taking internal exams because of the boycott, officials said. Schools in Pakistan were nationalised in the early 1970's.